



PRAYER DURING THE DAY FOR FEBRUARY 2023

*Text in **bold** may be said by all, if saying it with others. The month is mostly Epiphany with one week of Lent at the end; it is Black History Month, and you cannot escape all the Love.*

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and give ear to our cries; **hold not your peace at our tears.**

Psalm 39.13 (pluralized)

CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

PRAISE

A hymn, song, poem, or freeform artistic praise

Each day we go about our business,
walking past each other, catching each other's
eyes or not, about to speak or speaking.

All about us is noise. All about us is
noise and bramble, thorn and din, each
one of our ancestors on our tongues.

Someone is stitching up a hem, darning
a hole in a uniform, patching a tire,
repairing the things in need of repair.

Someone is trying to make music somewhere,
with a pair of wooden spoons on an oil drum,
with cello, boom box, harmonica, voice.

A woman and her son wait for the bus.
A farmer considers the changing sky.
A teacher says, *Take out your pencils. Begin.*

We encounter each other in words, words
spiny or smooth, whispered or declaimed,
words to consider, reconsider.

We cross dirt roads and highways that mark
the will of some one and then others, who said
I need to see what's on the other side.

I know there's something better down the road.
We need to find a place where we are safe.
We walk into that which we cannot yet see.

Say it plain: that many have died for this day.
Sing the names of the dead who brought us here,
who laid the train tracks, raised the bridges,

picked the cotton and the lettuce, built
brick by brick the glittering edifices
they would then keep clean and work inside of.

Praise song for struggle, praise song for the day.
Praise song for every hand-lettered sign,
the figuring-it-out at kitchen tables.

Some live by *love thy neighbor as thyself*,
others by *first do no harm or take no more
than you need*. What if the mightiest word is love?

Love beyond marital, filial, national,
love that casts a widening pool of light,
love with no need to pre-empt grievance.

In today's sharp sparkle, this winter air,
any thing can be made, any sentence begun.
On the brink, on the brim, on the cusp,

praise song for walking forward in that light.

*Elizabeth Alexander,
Praise Song for the Day*

THE WORD OF GOD

Choose a Psalm or portion of a psalm to read slowly, a breath at each verse. At the end say:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

READINGS

Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord! Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. These

words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. Write them on your house's doorframes and on your city's gates.

Deuteronomy 6.4-9

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

1 John 4.7-10

Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you. "If you love those who love you, why should you be commended? Even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, why should you be commended? Even sinners do that.

Luke 6.31-33

Then the Lord said, "I've clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I've heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. I've come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that's full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. Now the Israelites' cries of injustice have reached me. I've seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. So get going. I'm sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

Exodus 3. 7-10

Because God's word is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates to the point that it separates the soul from the spirit and the joints from the marrow. It's able to judge the heart's thoughts and intentions. No creature is hidden from it, but rather everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of the one to whom we have to give an answer.

Also, let's hold on to the confession since we have a great high priest who passed through the heavens, who is Jesus, God's Son; because we don't have a high priest who can't sympathize with our weaknesses but instead one who was tempted in every way that we are, except without sin.

Finally, let's draw near to the throne of favor with confidence so that we can receive mercy and find grace when we need help.

Hebrews 4. 12-16

Little children, I'm with you for a little while longer. You will look for me—but, just as I told the Jewish leaders, I also tell you now—'Where I'm going, you can't come.' "I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

John 13.33-35

RESPONSE

Silence, study, reading, or song. Then these words:

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6.8

PRAYERS

Let your prayers be guided by these concerns, and may your heart be led to even more:

In love and faithfulness

let us make our prayer to the Father and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people, that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,
we pray to you, **O God of love, hear our prayer.**

For candidates for baptism and confirmation, and those returning to their walk with
Christ, that they may live by every word that proceeds from your mouth, we pray to you,
O God of love, hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations, that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth, we
pray to you, **O God of love, hear our prayer.**

For the needy, that they may not be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away, we
pray to you, **O God of love, hear our prayer.**

For the sick in body, mind and spirit, that they may know your power to heal, we pray to
you, **O God of love, hear our prayer.**

For those who are suffering under the wretched grief and loss of these times.

For those who have died (*silence*), May they rest in peace.
O God of love, hear our prayer.

For the poor in spirit, that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven and see you face to
face, we pray to you, **O God of love, hear our prayer.**

*You are invited to add prayers of adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, intercession, and/or
petition. O God of Love, hear our prayer.*

Let us commend the world, which Christ so loves, to the mercy and protection of the Spirit of God.

One (or more) of the following prayers are said to collect the heart of the prayers.

God of the love we know, God of the love we seek: we give thanks that a part of the human condition is the hope, the sense, the lingering feeling that even though this world is not as it should be, a better world exists, a different future is available, a love for all of us waits for all of us, and today can be a part of getting there. In the embrace of your Son, we pray. **Amen.**

God who sees through our weaknesses, God who sees through our strengths, this constant becoming is something we learned from you. You love us not as a perfect treasure held firm in time, but in a relationship that changes and surprises, disappoints and perseveres. Help us to see each other's strengths as shelter and our own weaknesses as invitation. In the company of Christ our Savior, we pray. **Amen.**

God in the comforting blanket, God in a new day's adventure: we give thanks for reminders of your perennial grace, and the surprising joy that can greet each morning. We pray for those whose reserves are low and whose anxieties are high, and ask that today we might lend as we are able, receive as we need, and arise with a sense of what is newly possible together. We pray this in the love of the One who loved us first. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, who created us as human beings in many colors, and of many cultures: teach us how to live rightly with one another, in love and respect; move us when we need to be edged out of our comfort zones; strengthen us when we need courage to speak against injustice; open our eyes when we are blind to our own sins; restore us when we need healing; teach us to look to your righteous love when we long to lash out in anger; and move us toward the unity you intend for us; all this we ask in the name of our son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OTHER COLLECTS AND PRAYERS *(if desired)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(or another prayer)*

Said in whatever language is closest to your heart

THE CONCLUSION

Hear our prayers, O Lord, and give ear to our cries; **hold not your peace at our tears.**

Psalm 39.13 (pluralized)

This follows the outline of Prayer During the Day from CoE.

Readings are from the CEB translation of the Bible.

Prayers adapted from Corrymeela Community.

Created by Christ Church, Ridley Park in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania