

PRAYER IN THE HOME

FOR THE SUNDAYS BEFORE LENT

Third Sunday before Lent February 5th

Collect

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.

Psalm 112:1-9

1 Alleluia.

Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments.

**2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
a generation of the faithful that will be blest.**

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness endures for ever.

**4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous.**

5 It goes well with those who are generous in lending
and order their affairs with justice,

**6 For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.**

7 They will not be afraid of any evil tidings;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

**8 Their heart is sustained and will not fear,
until they see the downfall of their foes.**

9 They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever;
their head will be exalted with honour.

Reading: Matthew 5:13-20

¹³ 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ 'Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Second Sunday before Lent February 12th

Collect

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 65

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his mercy endures for ever.

**2 Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his mercy endures for ever.**

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his mercy endures for ever;

**4 Who alone does great wonders,
for his mercy endures for ever;**

5 Who by wisdom made the heavens,
for his mercy endures for ever;

**6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters,
for his mercy endures for ever;**

7 Who made the great lights,
for his mercy endures for ever;

**8 The sun to rule the day,
for his mercy endures for ever;**

9 The moon and the stars to govern the night,
for his mercy endures for ever;

**23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble,
for his mercy endures for ever;**

24 And delivered us from our enemies,
for his mercy endures for ever;

**25 Who gives food to all creatures,
for his mercy endures for ever.**

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven,
for his mercy endures for ever.

Reading: Matthew 6:25-34

²⁵ ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And

why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ ‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today

Sunday before Lent February 19th

Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
set straight our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 99

1 The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble;
he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the earth shake.

**2 The Lord is great in Zion
and high above all peoples.**

3 Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome;
the Lord our God is holy.

**4 Mighty king, who loves justice,
you have established equity;
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**

5 Exalt the Lord our God;
bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.

6 Moses and Aaron among his priests
and Samuel among those who call upon his name;
they called upon the Lord and he answered them.

7 He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud;
they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them.

8 You answered them, O Lord our God;
you were a God who forgave them
and pardoned them for their offences.

9 Exalt the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy.

Reading: Matthew 17:1-9

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!' ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.