

He will make your righteousness shine as clear as the light:

And your innocence as the noonday.

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him:

Do not be vexed when someone prospers, when they put their evil purposes to work.

Let go of anger and abandon wrath:

Let not envy move you to do evil.

For the wicked shall be cut down:

But those who wait for the Lord shall possess the land.

In a little while the ungodly shall be no more:

You will look for them in their place, but they will not be found.

But the meek shall possess the land:

And enjoy the abundance of peace.

The ungodly plot against the righteous:

And gnash at them with their teeth.

But the Lord shall laugh them to scorn:

For he sees that the day for their overthrow is near.

The ungodly have drawn the sword and strung the bow:

To strike down the poor and need, to slaughter those that walk in innocence.

Their swords shall pierce their own hearts:

And their bows shall be broken.

Though the righteous has but a little:

It is better than the great wealth of the ungodly.

For the strong arm of the ungodly shall be broken:

But the Lord upholds the righteous.

At the end of the (last) pause there may follow

Lord, our God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier: we ask you to cleanse us from all hypocrisy, to unite us to our fellow men and women by the bonds of peace and love, and to confirm us in holiness; now and for ever. **Amen.**

One or two Readings from the Bible as appointed.

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

¹² Are you not from of old,
O LORD my God, my Holy One?
You shall not die.

O LORD, you have marked them for judgment;
and you, O Rock, have established them for punishment.

¹³ Your eyes are too pure to behold evil,

and you cannot look on wrongdoing;
why do you look on the treacherous,
and are silent when the wicked swallow
those more righteous than they?
14 You have made people like the fish of the sea,
like crawling things that have no ruler.
15 The enemy brings all of them up with a hook;
he drags them out with his net,
he gathers them in his seine;
so he rejoices and exults.
16 Therefore he sacrifices to his net
and makes offerings to his seine;
for by them his portion is lavish,
and his food is rich.
17 Is he then to keep on emptying his net,
and destroying nations without mercy?
2 I will stand at my watchpost,
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.
2 Then the LORD answered me and said:
Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.
3 For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come, it will not delay.
4 Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faith.
5 Moreover, wealth is treacherous;
the arrogant do not endure.
They open their throats wide as Sheol;
like Death they never have enough.
They gather all nations for themselves,
and collect all peoples as their own.

Matthew 4:23-5:12

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and

every sickness among the people. ²⁴ So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. ²⁵ And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

May your word live in us

and bear much fruit to your glory.

The Canticle, A Song of the Blessed

Blessed are the poor in spirit:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn:
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek:
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful:
for mercy shall be shown to them.

Blessed are the pure in heart:
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers:
for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The Prayers

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer and the Collect of the Day

O God, without you we are not able to please you: mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings may be made according to local custom and need.

The Morning Collect

Lord and heavenly Father; you have brought us safely to this new day: keep us by your mighty power, protect us from sin, guard us from every kind of danger, and in all we do this day direct us in the fulfilling of your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace. **Amen.**