

## Lenten Midday Prayer – March 3, 2021

### *Preparation*

L: We cast our burdens upon you, O Lord,

**C: and you will sustain us.**

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

**C: and renew a right spirit within us.**

L: Cast us not away from your presence

**C: and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

L: Give us the joy of your saving help again

**C: and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

L: Blessed are you, O Lord, day by day,

**C: the God of our salvation who bears our burdens.**

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

**C: Amen.**

### *First Reading*

**Micah 6:6-8**

‘With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?’ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

### *Gospel Reading*

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’ He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

L: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to You, O Christ**

### *Sermon*

## **Prayers**

L: With confidence and trust let us pray to the God of the prodigal, saying, "God of mercy, hear our prayer."

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all whom we have injured or offended, God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Closing Prayer**

L: Let us pray. God of power and love look kindly on the tasks we have begun, and at this midday hour renew your grace within us: make good our defects, and bring our work to that fulfilment which accords with your will.

Through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Peace**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Please share a wave of peace with each other.