



Prayer of the Day

Forgive the faults of your people, O Lord, that our slavery to sin, into which we fell in our weakness, may be overcome by your liberating work; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 4:1-15

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." ⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

Psalms 5

¹Give ear to my | words, O LORD;*
consider my | meditation.

²Hearken to my cry for help, my King | and my God,*
for I make my | prayer to you.

³In the morning, LORD, you | hear my voice;*
early in the morning I make my appeal and | watch for you.

⁴For you are not a God who takes pleas- | ure in wickedness,*
and evil cannot | dwell with you.

⁵Braggarts cannot stand | in your sight;*
you hate all those | who work wickedness.

⁶You destroy those | who speak lies;*
the bloodthirsty and deceitful, O LORD, | you abhor.

⁷But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy I will go in- | to your house;*
I will bow down toward your holy temple in | awe of you.

⁸Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness,
because of those who lie in | wait for me;*
make your way | straight before me.

⁹For there is no truth | in their mouth;*
there is destruction | in their heart;

¹⁰Their throat is an | open grave;*
they flatter | with their tongue.

¹¹Declare them guilt- | y, O God;*
let them fall, because | of their schemes.

¹²Because of their many transgressions, | cast them out,*
for they have re- | belled against you.

¹³But all who take refuge in you | will be glad;*
they will sing out their | joy forever.

¹⁴You will | shelter them,*
so that those who love your Name may ex- | ult in you.

¹⁵For you, O LORD, will | bless the righteous;*
you will defend them with your favor as | with a shield.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

⁶For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

⁸Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 18:9-17

⁹{Jesus} also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰"Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹⁵Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁷Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."