

Daily Prayer

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
The Year of Matthew



Readings: Isaiah 56: 1, 6–7; Psalm 66: 2–3, 5–6, 8; Romans 11: 13–15, 29–32; Matthew 15: 21–28.

Using Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities and days of cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Green <i>Saint Pius X</i>	<i>You are a woman of great faith.</i>	Praying with the Gospel
Tuesday – Green <i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	<i>Do what is right and just.</i>	Praying with the First Reading Quiet Reflection Time
Wednesday – Green	<i>God's abundant mercy is for all people.</i>	Praying with the Second Reading Echo Prayer
Thursday – Green	<i>O God, let all the nations praise you!</i>	Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Prayers of the Faithful
Friday – Green	<i>Christians are called to draw closer to the likeness of God by the way they live their lives.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Prayer of Praise Sign of Peace

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries](#)
- Liturgy Help: [Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#).



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Today's Daily Prayer – Great is your faith!

In today's prayer, we will listen to the Gospel story where Jesus meets a woman of great faith.

Preparation: Choose voices for the Gospel reading (Narrator, Woman, Disciples and Jesus) and ask someone to light the candle.

Monday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: As we light this candle, we remember that when we act with justice and compassion, we come closer to God's likeness. May we be like God today.

Background to the Gospel

In this Gospel reading, Jesus is travelling into the territory of the Gentiles (non-Jews), near the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon (in present-day Lebanon). A Canaanite woman begins to shout at Jesus. Jews and Canaanites were sworn enemies at that time so this is an indication of her level of desperation – that she would approach a Jewish healer whose fame had spread. Despite the apostles trying to get rid of her and telling her to go away, the woman persists and Jesus sees her great faith.

Listen

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Narrator: Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting:

Woman: Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.

Narrator: But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying:

Disciples: Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.

Narrator: He answered:



Jesus: I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Narrator: But she came and knelt before him, saying:

Woman: Lord, help me.

Narrator: He answered:

Jesus: It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.

Narrator: She said:

Woman: Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.

Narrator: Then Jesus answered her:

Jesus: Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.

Narrator: And her daughter was healed instantly.

(Pause for silence)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Respond

Leader: The Gospel tells us about a woman who did not take 'no' for an answer. She kept persisting until she got what she wanted. We need to have total trust and confidence in God who really does care for us, even though at times it may not seem like that. When we persist in our prayer, we come to see what God wants for us, which may be very different to what we thought we wanted. Let us take a few moments in quiet and ask God to give us the gift of persistence and perseverance in our prayers, so that our desires for ourselves, and his for us, become more closely aligned.

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Short Responsory Prayer

Leader: Gracious God, when we are feeling hopeless ...

All: **Open our hearts and minds to you.**

Leader: Gracious God, when we are feeling unloved and uncared for ...

All: **Open our hearts and minds to you.**

Leader: Gracious God, when we are lost and afraid ...

All: **Open our hearts and minds to you.**

As our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Today's Daily Prayer – My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples

In today's prayer, we will listen to the First Reading from Sunday which is from the prophet Isaiah.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Tuesday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us attend to this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Background to the First Reading

Isaiah was a major prophet of the Old Testament who lived in Jerusalem around the end of the eighth century BC. The Book of Isaiah can be divided into three sections. The first part concerns the time when Assyria threatened the southern kingdom of Judah and Isaiah warned the people to be faithful to God. The second part is set during the time of the Babylon Exile, when the people of Israel felt crushed and hopeless. Isaiah tried to raise their spirits, telling them of God's plan of salvation for them. The third part refers to a time when the people had returned to Israel and were reassured by Isaiah that God would be faithful to them, and they would live righteous and just lives.

Listen

Leader: Let us listen attentively to the words from the prophet Isaiah.

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,

for soon my salvation will come,

and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord,

to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord,



and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant –
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

(Pause)

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Respond

Reflection on the Reading

Leader: In the First Reading from Isaiah, we hear God **saying**, 'Do what is right and just'.

In the Gospel, we see Jesus **doing** what is right and just when he reaches out to someone who is different, foreign and from a different culture.

Take some time to reflect on how you treat those who are different or foreign to you, even in your own classroom, staffroom or office.

How could you be more like Jesus?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Leader: As we go forth, help us, Lord, to do what is right and just, so that we may grow more like you each day. May we be generous people ready to welcome and include all.

All: **As our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.**

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Be the face of mercy

Today's prayer focuses on the Second Reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Let us light this candle remembering that where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, there he is in the midst. O God, be with us today.

All: Amen.

Background to the Second Reading

Paul wrote his letter to the Romans just before he planned to visit the Christian community in Rome. When he arrived there, he wanted to support them and work with them. He wrote to them explaining what his understanding of Christianity was and how that translated into living a Christian life. In this section, Paul is telling them that God's mercy is available to all people, both Jews and Gentiles alike. All are equal in God's eyes.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God, and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: Let us listen attentively to the words from Saint Paul to the Romans.

Reader: A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.



Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Leader: In God's eyes, everyone is equal, everyone is worthy of God's love, mercy and healing. Christians are called to draw closer to the likeness of God by the way they live their lives.

How do you, by the way you live your life, show God's mercy, love and healing to others?

Time for silent prayer ...

Go Forth

Echo Prayer

Leader: May I show God's mercy to all I meet this day.

All: May I show God's mercy to all I meet this day.

Leader: May I show God's healing to all I meet this day.

All: May I show God's healing to all I meet this day.

Leader: May I show God's love to all I meet this day.

All: May I show God's love to all I meet this day.

As our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Today's Daily Prayer – O God, let all the nations praise you!

Today's prayer focuses on the Responsorial Psalm. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Thursday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, we do so with humble hearts, knowing that God's love for us is deep and everlasting. Let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: As we light this candle, we remember that when we act with justice and compassion, we come closer to God's likeness. May we be like God today.

All: **Amen.**

Listen

The Responsorial Psalm

Leader: Let us pray the Psalm together.

Reader: O God, let all the nations praise you!

All: **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

Reader: O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

All: **O God, let all the nations praise you!**

Reader: Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,



you guide the nations on earth.

All: O God, let all the nations praise you!

Reader: Let the peoples praise you, O God;

let all the peoples praise you.

May God still give us his blessing

till the ends of the earth revere him.

All: O God, let all the nations praise you!

(Pause)

Respond

Prayers of the Faithful

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others.

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may see and value your abundant blessings. *(Pause)*
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may look beyond race, colour and creed, and see all people in your likeness. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may see the needs of others first and seek to serve them. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may welcome all, include all, accept all. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Open our eyes, Lord, so that we may treat others with compassion, justice and mercy. *(Pause)* Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Generous and loving God, we offer up these prayers to you, knowing you will always listen.

All: Amen.

Go Forth

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together in the words our saviour gave us.

All: Our Father ...

Let us go forth as our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Today's Daily Prayer – We praise you, O God

Today we will listen to the Gospel from Sunday. **Preparation:** Choose voices for the Gospel reading (Narrator, Woman, Disciples and Jesus) and ask someone to light the candle.

Friday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light candle and pause.

Leader: Let us light this candle remembering that where two or three are gathered in Jesus' name, there he is in the midst. O God, bring light to the darkness.

All: **Amen.**

Listen

The Gospel

Narrator: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Narrator: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting:

Woman: Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.

Narrator: But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying:

Disciples: Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.

Narrator: He answered:

Jesus: I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Narrator: But she came and knelt before him, saying:

Woman: Lord, help me.



Narrator: He answered:

Jesus: It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.

Narrator: She said:

Woman: Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table.

Narrator: Then Jesus answered her:

Jesus: Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.

Narrator: And her daughter was healed instantly.

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Respond

Short Responsorial Prayer

Leader: We praise you, God, for your faithfulness.

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: We praise you, God, for your mercy.

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: We praise you, God, for your love.

All: **We praise you.**

Leader: May our hearts be lifted up with gratitude and thanksgiving, and may we rejoice in all God's great gifts to us.

All: **Amen.**

Go Forth

The Sign of Peace

Leader: As we come to the end of another week, let us offer each other a sign of peace.

(Sign of peace)

Let us go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Extinguish candle and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

