

**Affirmation Prayer...**

Our God leads us to heaven. Let us adore him!

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

**Meter: LM**

You faithful souls, who Jesus know,  
If risen indeed with him you are,  
Superior to the joys below,  
His Resurrection's power declare.  
To him continually aspire,  
Contending for your native place,  
And emulate the angel choir,  
And only live to love and praise.  
Your real life, with Christ concealed,  
Deep in the Father's bosom lies;  
And, glorious as your Head revealed,  
You soon shall meet him in the skies

**Psalm**

**62:2-3, 6-9**

*Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil 3:20)*

*As Christians our true home is not this passing earth, but the new heavens and the new earth. We are called to live this life as a gateway to eternity. The Father has created us in his image and has raised us up into the heavenly reality in virtue of his Son Jesus. Let us remain in awe of this reality and strive after its fulfillment.*

In God alone is my soul at rest;  
my help comes from him.  
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,  
my fortress: I stand firm.  
In God alone be at rest, my soul;  
for my hope comes from him.  
He alone is my rock, my stronghold,  
my fortress: I stand firm.  
In God is my safety and glory,  
the rock of my strength.  
Take refuge in God, all you people.  
Trust him at all times.  
Pour out your hearts before him  
for God is our refuge.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Word of God**

**1:26-27**

God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.

God raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus. (cf. Eph 2:6)

**Canticle of Zechariah**

Be renewed in the spirit of your minds. (Eph 4:23)

**All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Intercessions**

Lord, we yearn to be united with you in your heavenly kingdom, and so we pray:

**R/ Lord, lead us to heaven.**

When we feel trapped in the cycle of sin, **R/**

When we stray from the right path, **R/**

When we become entangled in the desire for material possessions, **R/**

**Personal intentions**

**All: Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

God of majesty, look with compassion upon us, your servants. Raise us up to participation in your heavenly kingdom, that we may pass all our days giving praise to you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Reading 1**                      **Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23**

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

**Reading 2**                      **Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11**

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

**Men of St. Joseph Prayer**

**All: St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!**

*Prayer for the text used with permission  
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