

**Affirmation Prayer...**

The Lord humbles; he also exalts. Come, 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: 77 77 D**

You have promised to forgive  
Contrite sinners who repent;  
So I come with humbled heart,  
By your word made confident.  
I have sinned, Lord, I have sinned:  
Well I know my wickedness.  
Yet I make this prayer to you:  
Lord, forgive me, heal, and bless.  
Let me not be lost in sin,  
Banished to eternal night;  
God who hears the penitent,  
Let your goodness show your might.  
Though I be unworthy, Lord,  
Your great mercy will I claim,  
Till I join the hosts above  
Who forever praise your name.

**Canticle** **1 Samuel 2:1, 3-7**

*Give to the Most High as he has given to you,  
generously, according to your means./ For the Lord  
is one who always repays,/ and he will give back to  
yousevenfold./ But offer no bribes, these he does  
not accept!* (Sir 35:9-11a)

*Upsetting the apple carts of our expectations  
seems to be one of God's favorite activities. The  
Pharisee offers God his good deeds as a bribe,  
confident they will win him a rich reward. The tax  
collector offers only his sins, aware that they  
should earn him punishment. God rewards his  
repentance with mercy far more than sevenfold.*

My heart exults in the Lord,  
my horn is exalted in my God.  
Speak boastfully no longer,  
nor let arrogance issue from your mouths.  
For an all-knowing God is the Lord,  
a God who judges deeds.  
The bows of the mighty are broken,  
while the tottering gird on strength.  
The well-fed hire themselves out for bread,  
while the hungry batten on spoil.  
The barren wife bears seven sons,  
while the mother of many languishes.  
The Lord puts to death and gives life;  
he casts down to the nether world;  
he raises up again.  
The Lord makes poor and makes rich,  
he humbles, he also exalts.

**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** **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

More tortuous than all else is the human heart,  
beyond remedy; who can understand it?/ I, the  
Lord, alone probe the mind/ and test the heart,  
To reward everyone according to his ways,  
according to the merit of his deed

The reward of humility and fear of the Lord/ is  
riches, honor and life. (Prv 22:4)

**Canticle of Zechariah**

The hungry he has filled with good things;/ the rich  
he has sent away empty. (Lk 1:53)

**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**

God gives us far more than we could ever ask. In  
confidence, we pray:

**R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.**

In return for our sins, you sent us your Son: – grant  
us the grace to abandon sin and remain faithful to  
him. **R/**

In return for our self-centeredness, you give us  
your love: – grant us the grace to abandon the  
small shell of self for the wideness of your mercy.  
**R/**

In return for our death, you give us eternal life: –  
grant us the grace to live for that future: **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 mercy, we can make no return for your  
immense love except to take up the cup of  
salvation and call upon your name in thanksgiving.  
Grant us humble, grateful hearts, through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

