

Affirmation Prayer...

Come, let us give thanks to God for all his gifts to us!

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: 88 88 88**

Give me, O Lord, the grace to see,
And wisdom to acknowledge thee,
My being's Source and sovereign Lord,
My greatest Good, my life's Reward,
My truest wealth and treasure here,
Than dearest earthly friend more dear.
And give me, Lord, the grace to see
The happiness of serving thee
In holiness of life and heart,
Where sin or evil play no part;
And grant that none shall ever be
Less true or good because of me.

Psalm **101:6, 14, 17-18**

If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? (1 Jn 3:17)

The poor are all those who stand in need of our love, our time, our interest, our concern. Our wealth is not necessarily our money. It is whatever good God has done for us and given to us.

Lord, why do you stand afar off and hide yourself in times of distress?

The poor man is devoured by the pride of the wicked: he is caught in the schemes that others have made.

For the wicked man boasts of his heart's desires; the covetous blasphemes and spurns the Lord. In his pride the wicked says: "He will not punish. There is no God." Such are his thoughts.

His path is ever untroubled; your judgment is far from his mind.

His enemies he regards with contempt. He thinks: "Never shall I falter: misfortune shall never be my lot."

But you have seen the trouble and sorrow, you note it, you take it in hand.

The helpless trusts himself to you; for you are the helper of the orphan.

Lord, you hear the prayer of the poor; you strengthen their hearts; you turn your ear to protect the rights of the orphan and oppressed so that mortal man may strike terror no more.

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 **1Timothy 6:17-19**

Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.

Woe to the complacent in Zion,/ to the overconfident on the mount of Samaria. (Am 6:1)

Canticle of Zechariah

Wealth is useless on the day of wrath,/ but virtue saves from death. (Prv 11:4)

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

Many are the needs of those around us; few are our resources; great is the generosity of God, and so we pray:

R/ Lord, you hear the prayer of the poor!

For those who go to bed hungry, that they may be fed by those who have more food than they need.

R/

For those who suffer the diseases of poverty, that they may find help from those who suffer the diseases of affluence. **R/**

For those who are neglected, that they may find care from those who are loved. **R/**

For those who have died, that they may be raised to eternal life: **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.

O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your Only Begotten Son for our salvation. Grant that we who have received such a gift from you may withhold from those in need no gift that lies within our power to give, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading 1 **Amos 6:1a, 4-7**

The almighty Lord says this: Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria, those famous men of this first of nations to whom the House of Israel goes as client. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp, they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

Reading 2 **1 Timothy 6:11-16**

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

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
of Magnificat*