

Midday Prayer Liturgy – May 5, 2021

ADDRESS

Father God, creator of heaven and earth,
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
God and Father of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ,
True and living God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Have mercy and hear our prayer.

FIRST PRAYERS

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever.

Amen. Hallelujah.

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning is now and will be forever.

Amen. Hallelujah.

JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me a sinner

PSALM READING: Psalm 72

GOSPEL READING: Luke 8:16–25

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Romans 13

PRAYER OF CONFESSION BASED ON THE BEATITUDES

*God blesses those who realize their need for him,
for the kingdom of heaven is given to them.*

But we have been proud in spirit,
inflated with pride in our own self-sufficiency.
We have forgotten how needy we are.

*God blesses those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

But we have not mourned over our sins,
instead we have insulated ourselves from those around us,
from their pain, needs, loneliness, and suffering.
We have even hardened ourselves
so that we are unaware that our own lives
cause grief to the Lord.

*God blesses those who are gentle and lowly,
for the whole earth will be their inheritance.*

But we have valued toughness over gentleness.

We have too often chosen to be concerned with ourselves
rather than with our brothers and sisters and neighbors.

Like the prodigal son, we want to satisfy ourselves
rather than our Father.

*God blesses those who are hungry and thirsty for justice,
for they will receive it in full.*

But we have hungered after the pleasures,
prestige, and possessions of this temporal world.

Like Esau, we have despised our birthright
by choosing to satisfy our immediate desires.

*God blesses those who are merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

But we have often presided as harsh judges
over the lives of others.

We have been quick to place blame
on anything or anyone but ourselves.

We have avoided obligations to care for
or to help people in need.

*God blesses those whose hearts are pure,
for they will see God.*

But we have defiled our hearts
with idols of our own choosing, doubting that
God will keep his Word and his promises.
We continually compromise the truth
by trying to find meaning and security
in our jobs, our friends, our pleasures, our projects—
but not in God.

*God blesses those who work for peace,
for they will be called the children of God.*

But we are often at war with one another.
In a thousand little ways we demand to be catered to.
We seldom esteem others as more important than ourselves.
We often create strife by demanding our way
rather than by walking in God's Spirit.

*God blesses those who are persecuted
because they live for God,
for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.*

But we have too often retreated
from the disapproval of others.

We've sought to please the world rather than
risking the disapproval of those who need the Messiah.

We regard rejection for righteousness
as a burden to be borne, rather than
an honor to be humbly received.

Lord, please show us your mercy.

Lord, have mercy upon us

in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MERCY

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

CONFESSION OF THE MYSTERY

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.