**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**July 24, 2022–24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*“Lord, teach us to pray.”*

**HELLOs; then everyone on mute. (Suzie De Quattro & Betty Thompson)**

* You may have seen the extra message in the email that provided today’s plan and Zoom link. If you want to hear more about ways to respond to the crisis of refugees being bused to the DC area by the governors of Texas and Arizona, please stay after our prayer today, or get in touch with Nancy Sushinsky. Nancy will put a note in Chat as our service ends today.

**WELCOME (Mary Ott)**

Welcome, everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* I prepared today’s communal prayer.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in music and prayer today: Alicia Urban, Reggie Ott, Ann Jelen, Charlotte Cook, Jim De Quattro, Richard McGinnis, Maryann Dolan, Suzie De Quattro, Arlene McGarrity, and Debra Street.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch with Betty Thompson or Suzie De Quattro.

**SETTLING IN (Alicia Urban)**

Settle into a position where you feel supported and comfortable. Let your breath slow and deepen and find its natural pace… in and out…. *[Pause.]*

Become aware of divine peace surrounding you…. *[Pause.]*

Let that peace flow into three collective breaths:

One to be here…. One to be together…. And one to welcome the Holy Spirit. *[Pause.]*

Now Reggie Ott will lead us into our prayer together.

**OPENING SONG “Psalm 188: This Is The Day” (Reggie Ott)**

Refrain:

This is the day the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad.

Verse 1.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,

his mercy endures forever;

let the house of Israel say:

“His mercy endures forever.”

Verse 2.

The Lord’s right hand has struck with pow’r,

the Lord’s right hand is exalted;

I shall not die, but live

and declare the works of the Lord.

Verse 3.

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

By the Lord has this been done;

it is wonderful in our eyes!

**GREETING (Ann Jelen)**

God’s beloved people, we welcome you with joy! May grace and peace be with you.

All: And with you, too. Thanks be to God!

**CALL TO WORSHIP/ GATHERING PRAYER (Ann Jelen)**

We are here to celebrate that God is in love with us.

We gather as imperfect people who are called and challenged to follow Jesus. We seek to live our vocation as people who continue God’s work of creation. And so we pray:

May the witness to Christ be strong among us, and fill us with the gifts of the Spirit

as we work for and wait for the fullness of God’s reign.

*[Pause.]*

Mary Ott will introduce us to today’s theme.

**INTRODUCTION TO THEME (Mary Ott)**

The theme for today is “Lord, teach us to pray.” In today’s gospel, Jesus’ disciple asked the Lord how to pray. In response, Jesus gave us what we call the Lord’s Prayer. We will focus on what Jesus promised us if we pray.

Many versions of Jesus’ prayer are available, some derived from the original Aramaic. Later in this service we will pray a direct translation from Aramaic.

*[Slight pause]*

Charlotte Cook will read from the Gospel of Luke. Then Jim De Quattro will offer questions that will lead us into silence.

**READING 1. (****Luke 11, 1-4, 9-13) (Charlotte Cook)**

Now once he was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished one of his disciples said, ”Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “Say this when you pray:

 “Abba, may your name be held holy,

 your kingdom come;

 give us each day our daily bread,

 and forgive us our sins,

 for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.

 And do not put us to the test.’”

 “So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to them. What parent among you would hand their child a stone when a daughter asked for bread? Or hand a son a snake instead of a fish? Or hand her a scorpion if she asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Abba give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!”

**QUESTIONS 1. *[Pause after each question.]* (Jim De Quattro)**

Based on this text, how are you to pray?

What is required of you?



**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *[Share slide, time 2:00, chime -* ***Betty****]*

**Mary Ott**: Now Richard McGinnis will read from a commentary by Sr. Mary M. McGlone.

**READING 2. (Richard McGinnis)**

Many years ago, a couple of teenagers I worked with were in a serious car accident. Soon

after the accident, I heard a youth minister tell the young driver that if he prayed hard

enough, his buddy would live. I was so angry with that minister that I could hardly speak. All I could think of was that if the other kid died, the driver would feel doubly guilty — first for the accident, secondly for not praying well enough. Happily, the young man recovered. I could not fathom the minister's theology. Did he think of God like a game show host who awards prizes to the best performers? Did he believe we need a special formula to talk God into being nice or into thinking twice when God is inclined to be mean? Did he think God does the most for the people who have the holiest friends? Do we pray to tell God how to do our bidding?

To me, those ideas seemed blasphemous. I couldn't believe in a God who demands cajoling or groveling. Neither could I love a God who controls the timing of the

accident, the death of babies and the suffering of war. A God like that attracts no

tenderness and doesn't seem to respect our freedom. Is that the God to whom

Jesus invites us to pray?

**QUESTIONS 2. *[Pause after each question.]* (Jim De Quattro)**

What do you think about the idea that praying hard enough will guarantee the desired outcome?

When have you received a different response to your prayer than you hoped for? How did you feel about not receiving the response that you wanted?



**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *[Share slide, time 2:00, chime -* ***Betty****]*

**Jim De Quattro:** Now Richard McGinnis will read more from McGlone’s commentary.

**READING 3. (Richard McGinnis)**

Today's Gospel began with the disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray. What was his theology of prayer?

First, we see that the Lord's Prayer can be summarized by any of its phrases, and most

particularly by the one Luke saved for Jesus' prayer in the Garden: "Thy will be done."

When we pray like this, we make ourselves totally available to God's grace working in and through us. When we understand prayer as a union of our will with God's, we are praying, as our eucharistic prayer says, "Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the union of the Holy Spirit."

When we pray with and in and through Christ, we come to know God's presence with and among us in everything. God may not keep us from all harm, but because God's love is expressed in the Spirit and through others, we will never face harm alone. When we allow Christ to teach us to pray, we stop asking God to do our bidding and join

Christ in doing everything we can for the coming of God's kingdom.

Our prayer for the coming of God's kingdom is ultimately a prayer of self-offering. God

does not promise to rain down bread from heaven, but to empower us to share and to

encourage others to do the same. In this vision, we are not relating to a faraway God who must be cajoled into caring and acting; we are communicating with the God who is as near as we are to ourselves, the God whose grace empowers us with the strength and creativity to collaborate with the divine plan.

**QUESTIONS 1. *[Pause after each question.]* (Jim De Quattro)**

Sr. Mary McGlone says that “Our prayer for the coming of God's kingdom is ultimately a prayer of self-offering. God does not promise to rain down bread from heaven, but to empower us to share and to encourage others to do the same.”

In the last line of the reading from St. Luke, what did Jesus promise as a result of your prayers?



**COMMUNAL SILENCE**  *[Share slide, time 2:00, chime -* ***Betty****]*

[Slight pause]

**(Jim De Quattro):** Maryann Dolan will lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Maryann Dolan)**

We know the wisdom of our community includes both words shared and silent listening. Now, if you’d like, we invite you to share the essence of what is emerging within you from our readings and silence. Let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. [Long-ish pause]

Who would like to start our sharing? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterward.

[Sharing]

[Long silences are common and they can be fruitful. If there is extended silence after 15 minutes:] Is there anyone else who would like to share?  [Long pause]

[Stop by about 11:20.]

Thank you.  We can continue after the final song, as we often do.

Now Suzie De Quattro will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Suzie De Quattro)**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. [Pause]

Our response will be: “Holy One, hear our prayer.”

Oh Jesus, teach us to pray as you prayed. For this we pray.

“Holy One, hear our prayer.”

Oh Holy Spirit, bless the members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious as they prepare for their assembly that starts on August 9. For this we pray.

“Holy One, hear our prayer.”

Oh Creator of all people, bless the people of our country that we may be united in listening to You. For this we pray.

“Holy One, hear our prayer.”

Oh Creator, Redeemer, and Spirit, grant us peace. For this we pray.

“Holy One, hear our prayer.”

For what else shall we pray? Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute yourself afterward.

[Shared prayers] (“Holy One, hear our prayer.”)

O You who see us, hear us, and love us more than we can imagine, thank you for receiving our intentions, spoken and unspoken. We entrust all to you. Amen.

**OFFERTORY (Arlene McGarrity)**

Take time to notice how Christ’s Spirit is active and moving in you right now. What would it look like for this Spirit to pour out of you this week? [Pause.]

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Arlene McGarrity)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the wine,

gifts of Earth and the work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it.  [Pause.]

Holy One, we entrust ourselves to you and to one another.

Make us your bread of abundance.  Make us your wine of joy.

Let even our fragments be plenty to share. Amen.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Mary Ott)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands in harmony with our family throughout the world:

All (muted):

O cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration! Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us where your Presence can abide.

Fill us with your creativity so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.

Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with your desire.

Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us, as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.

Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose,

but illuminate the opportunities of the present moment.

For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birthpower and fulfillment,

as all is gathered and made whole once again.

**FINAL BLESSING (Mary Ott)**

May you receive the Holy Spirit in response to your prayers.

*(Pause.)*

Now Debra Street will lead us in “If You Believe and I Believe.”

**CLOSING (Debra Street)**

If you believe and I believe and we together pray,

The Holy Spirit must come down and set God’s people free,

And set God’s people free, and set God’s people free;

The Holy Spirit must come down and set God’s people free.

**RESOURCES**

“Psalm 118: This Is The Day” © Copyright, 1981, 1982, Jan Michael Joncas Trust, Published by OCP Publications.

The New Testament of the Jerusalem Bible. Doubleday & Company, Inc., edited for inclusivity.

Photo images by Mary D. Ott of “Untitled, Homage series, 2017” by Jenny Pohlman and Sabrina Knowles. Blown and sculpted glass; steel.

July 24, 2022: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | National Catholic Reporter.pdf.

[https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/july-24-2022-seventeenth-sunday-ordinary-time.](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmaryott%5CDesktop%5C17th%20Sunday%20in%20ordinary%20time%5CMcGlone%20July%2024%2C%202022%20Seventeenth%20Sunday%20in%20Ordinary%20Time%20%7C%20National%20Catholic%20Reporter.pdf)

Our Father: A Direct Translation from Aramaic, by anonymous.

“If You Believe and I Believe,” Gather, GIA Publications, Inc.

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