

A Prayer for Wisdom

Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Prayer (together)

Lord, we give you thanks for the assurance that the past can be left to your mercy, the present to your love, and the future to your providence. Help us to grow more aware of your loving presence, that we may live more authentically and proclaim by our words and actions that salvation comes to us this day.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Readings (Selected readings from the Old Testament and from *Tuesdays with Morrie* by Mitch Albom)

Reader 1: That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Make a request of me, and I will grant it to you.” Solomon answered God, “You have shown great favor to my father David, and you have allowed me to succeed him as king. Now, Lord God, may your promise to my father David be fulfilled, for you have made me king over a people as numerous as the dust of the earth. Give me, therefore, wisdom and knowledge to lead this people, for otherwise who could rule this great people of yours?” God then replied to Solomon: “Since this has been your wish and you have not asked for riches, treasures, and glory, nor for the life of those who hate you, nor even for a long life for yourself, but have asked for wisdom and knowledge in order to rule my people, wisdom and knowledge are given you....”

Reader 2: “So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they’re busy doing things they think are important. This is because they are chasing the wrong things. The way you get meaning into your life is to devote yourself to loving others, devote yourself to your community around you, and devote yourself to creating something that gives you purpose and meaning.”

Reader 1: I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; Because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is accounted mire.

Reader 2: “Mitch, I don’t know what ‘spiritual development’ really means. But I do know we’re deficient in some way. We are too involved in materialistic things that don’t satisfy us. The loving relationships we have, the universe around us, we take these things for granted.”

Reader 1: Hear, my son, and receive my words, and the years of your life shall be many. On the way of wisdom I direct you, I lead you on straightforward paths. When you walk, your step will not be impeded, and should you run, you will not stumble. Hold fast to instruction, never let her go; keep her, for she is your life.

Reader 2: “All this emphasis on youth – I don’t buy it. Listen, I know what a misery being young can be, so don’t tell me it’s so great. All these kids who came to me with their struggles, their strife, their feelings of inadequacy, their sense that life was miserable.....the young are not wise. They have very little understanding about life. Who wants to live every day when you don’t know what’s going on? When people are manipulating you, telling you to buy this perfume and you’ll be beautiful, or this pair of jeans and you’ll be sexy – and you believe them. It’s such nonsense.”

Reader 1: I will pour out my spirit upon all mankind. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, you old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. Even upon the servants and the handmaids, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

Reader 2: “Every society has its own problems. The way to do it, I think, isn’t to run away. You have to work on creating your own culture. Look, no matter where you live, the biggest defect we human beings have is our own shortsightedness. We don’t see what could be. We should be looking at our potential, stretching ourselves into everything we can become. But if you’re surrounded by people who say ‘I want mine now,’ you end up with a few people with everything and a military to keep the poor ones from rising up and stealing it. The problem, Mitch, is that we don’t believe we are as much alike as we are. Whites and blacks, Catholics and Protestants, men and women. If we saw each other as more alike, we might be eager to join in one big human family in this world, and to care about that family the way we care about our own.”

Reader 1: Hear, O children, a Father’s instruction, be attentive, that you may gain understanding! Let your heart hold fast to my words: keep my commands that you may live! Get wisdom, get understanding!

Reader 2: “The truth is, part of me is every age. I’m a three-year-old, I’m a five-year-old, I’m a thirty-seven-year-old, I’m a fifty-year-old. I’ve been through all of them, and I know what it’s like. I delight in being a child when it’s appropriate to be a child. I delight in being a wise old man when it’s appropriate to be a wise old man. Think of all I can be! I am every age, up to my own. Do you understand?”

Response Song: We Praise You

Refrain: We praise you, O Lord, for all your works are wonderful.
 We praise you, O Lord, forever is your love.

A Gospel Vision

(Selected readings from the New Testament)

Reader 1: See to it, my brothers and sisters, that you walk with care; not as unwise but wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not become foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is... Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader 2: For you were called for freedom, brothers, but do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.

Reader 3: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Student Reflection

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: God our loving Father, we are here now in your loving presence aware that you understand us and know our needs before we ask them. In your loving mercy, pardon our failings and hear our prayers.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, bring to us something of our peace and stillness. Come to meet us in the quiet of our hearts, for you are there already, forgiving us, redeeming us, assuring us, healing us.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: May we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith as we journey through life. May He who has begun this work in us, bring it to completion in Him.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, you are full of love and generosity. Continue to fill us with love and gratitude. Lead us to celebrate your constant goodness to us.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: Heavenly Father, we bring to you all the hours of our days, all our talents and gifts, all our successes and failures, all the love we have received and given, all those to whom we owe a debt of gratitude. May your love and light continue to heal, restore, and inspire us.

All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our loving Father, we lay before you all the petitions we have in our hearts, our concerns and problems. Speak to us, lead us, and guide us. Deepen our trust in your holy will.
All: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer (together)

Lord, renew our vision,
revitalize our commitment of service,
and challenge us each day of our lives,
that we may live more authentically
your call to holiness.

Empower us with your Spirit
that we may act justly, love tenderly,
and walk more faithfully in your presence.

Inspire us to touch hearts
by building up and renewing,
by welcoming and restoring dignity,
by encouraging the weak,
and lightening burdens. Amen.

***Saint John Baptist de La Salle...Pray for us!
Live, Jesus, in our hearts...Forever!***