



Closing Worship - Franciscan Prayers

Wednesday, 30 March 2022

We remain seated for the whole of the service.

The Prayer before the Crucifix

We focus in silence on the Crucifix

Francis prayed this prayer before the crucifix in the little church of San Damiano in 1205/6, in the early days of his conversion.

Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart
and give me
true faith,
certain hope,
and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge,
Lord, that I may carry out
Your holy and true command
Amen

Silence

The Word of God *Psalmody*

Psalm 145.8-18

8

The Lord is gracious and merciful, ◆
long-suffering and of great goodness.

9

The Lord is loving to everyone ◆
and his mercy is over all his creatures.

10

All your works praise you, O Lord, ◆
and your faithful servants bless you.

11

They tell of the glory of your kingdom ◆
and speak of your mighty power.

12

To make known to all peoples your mighty acts ◆
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.

13

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; ◆
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14

The Lord is sure in all his words ◆
and faithful in all his deeds.

15

The Lord upholds all those who fall ♦
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

16

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, ♦
and you give them their food in due season.

17

You open wide your hand ♦
and fill all things living with plenty.

18

The Lord is righteous in all his ways ♦
and loving in all his works.

All

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit ♦
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*New Testament Reading
John 10.11-21*

A reading from the Gospel According to St John,
Chapter 10, starting at the 11th verse:

Jesus said 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Again the Jews were divided because of these words. Many of them were saying, 'He has a demon and is out of his mind. Why listen to him?' Others were saying, 'These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?'

Silence

The Canticle of the Creatures

St Francis of Assisi

- 1
Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
yours are the praises, the glory, the honour
and all blessing.
- 2
To you alone, Most High, do they belong
and no human is worthy to mention your name.
- 3
Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
who is the day and through whom you give us light.
- 4
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour;
and bears a likeness of you, Most High One.
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the
stars:
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and
beautiful.
- 5
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Wind;
and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind
of weather,
through which you give sustenance to your creatures.
- 6
Praised be you, my Lord, through Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.
- 7
Praised be you, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night:
and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
- 8
Praised be you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother
Earth,
who sustains and governs us
and who produces various fruit
with coloured flowers and herbs.
- 9
Praised be you, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for your love
and bear infirmity and tribulation.

10

Blessèd are those who endure in peace:
for by you, Most High, shall they be crowned.

11

Praised be you, my Lord, for our Sister,
Bodily Death,
from whom no one living can escape:
woe to those who die in mortal sin.

12

Blessèd are those whom death will find
in your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

13

Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks
and serve him with great humility.

The Absorbeat

This prayer has a special place for members of the Third Order. It is incorporated in the Third Order Office, said daily by members of the Third Order throughout the world. A musical setting of this prayer was commissioned by Heather Hall TSSF, as a thanksgiving gift, to celebrate the foundation of the Third Order 800 years ago. Music composed by Adrian Green and performed by the Convivium Singers.

To listen at home – click here:

https://www.anglicanfranciscans.org/images/Absorbeat/Absorbeat_M1.mp3

May the power of your love, Lord Christ,
fiery and sweet as honey,
so absorb our hearts
as to withdraw them from all that is under heaven.
Grant that we may be ready
to die for love of your love,
as you died for love of our love. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen**

The Blessing of St. Francis of Assisi to Brother Leo

The Lord bless us and keep us.
May He show His face to us and have mercy.
May He turn His countenance to us and give us peace.
The Lord bless us! **Amen**

Adapted from Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
<https://www.fspa.org/content/prayer/franciscan-prayers>

We observe silence for a short time

Unless otherwise stated Franciscan prayer material taken from
<https://www.anglicanfranciscans.org/index.php/franciscan-prayers>

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