

Devotions and Prayers for the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost - curated by Vicar Carolyn

A Morning Prayer (anonymous author)

Lord Jesus, I am grateful for this new day, for the wonder of creation, for the blessing of family and friends, for the gift of faith.

I offer myself to you today, Lord, and pray that my life will be pleasing to you. I gladly offer you my prayers, my works, my joys, and my sorrows--with hope that they will draw me closer to you.

Open my heart to the promptings of your Spirit, and help me grow today in faith, hope and love. May my every thought and action be a reflection of you, my Lord, and may I be an instrument of your grace for everyone I meet.

Amen.

"At certain periods I sense that I pray more with my body than with my understanding. Such prayer is at ground level--on one's knees, or bowing low, looking at the place where the Eucharist is celebrated, taking advantage of the peaceful silence and even of the sounds coming up from the village. The body is well and truly present to listen, grasp, love. It would be sheer folly to want to leave it out of account!"

--Brother Roger of Taize

"If, wishing to correct another, you are moved to anger, you gratify your own passion. Do not lose yourself in order to save another."

--Abba Macarius

"To be grateful is to recognize the Love of God in everything God has given us--and God has given us everything."

--Thomas Merton

"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing. Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation. This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others."

--St. Clare of Assisi

"If I adore You out of fear of Hell, burn me in Hell!
If I adore you out of desire for Paradise,
Lock me out of Paradise.
But if I adore you for Yourself alone,
Do not deny to me Your eternal beauty."

--Rabia al Basri

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in God's temple.

Psalm 27:4, NRSV

Selections from the Prayer of St. Patrick

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun, splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning, swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea, stability of the earth, firmness of the rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me;
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's way to lie before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's hosts to save me
From snares of the devil,
From temptations of vices,
From every one who desires me ill,
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.

A Poem by Charles Wharton Stork

God, You have been too good to me,
You don't know what You've done.
A clod's too small to drink in all
The treasure of the sun.

The pitcher fills the lifted cup
And still the blessings pour
They overbrim the shallow rim
With cool refreshing store.

You are too prodigal with joy,
Too careless of its worth,
To let the stream with crystal gleam
Fall wasted on the earth.

Let many thirst lips draw near
And quaff the greater part!
There still will be too much for me
To hold in one glad heart.

"Here your heart must go out in love and learn that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament of love. As love and support are given to you, you in turn must render love and support to Christ in his needy ones...For the sacrament has no blessing and significance unless love grows daily and so changes a person that they are made one with all others."

--Martin Luther