



Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, in Jesus' baptism you declared him to be your beloved Son and set him apart as your agent of grace for your creation. May we who are baptized into his life also be sent as agents of grace in your world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,*

ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

²Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his Name;*

worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;*

the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;*

the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;*

the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

⁶He makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,*

and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;

the voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;*

the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

⁸The voice of the LORD makes the | oak trees writhe*

and strips the | forests bare.

⁹And in the temple | of the LORD*

all are | crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;*

the LORD sits enthroned as | King forevermore.

¹¹The LORD shall give strength | to his people;*

the LORD shall give his people the bless- | ing of peace.

Second Reading: Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."