

Called to Be Prophetic: An Advent Evening Prayer

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Prepared by Rachele Kramer, D.Min. · December 6, 2020

Call to Prayer We wait in silence.
We wait in hope.
We long for an end to the darkness and trials
that surround us.
O Wisdom Incarnate,
come into our lives.
Teach us your way,
and lead us on the path that brings light and life.
Come, Lord Jesus.
Come.

Song of Meditation | O Come, O Come Emmanuel, arr. by Jeanne Cotter

Song & Scripture | A Voice Cries Out, Mark 1:4-8

Refrain

A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: "Pre - pare a
way for the Lord!" A voice cries out in the wil - der -
ness: "Make straight a high - way for God!"

Prayer

Emmanuel, God-With-Us,
as we continue to prepare our hearts for your coming,
we ask for the courage to be more like John the Baptist,
not sitting by silently, but crying out
and speaking words that are challenging to hear.
Help us to be prophetic, to take action when we see injustice
and others suffering around us.
Keep us from being complacent,
and give us the strength to choose what is right over what is easy.
We ask all of this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

Reading | Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti* (nos. 73-74)

The parable [of the Good Samaritan] then asks us to take a closer look at the passers-by. The nervous indifference that makes them pass to the other side of the road – whether innocently or not, whether the result of disdain or mere distraction – makes the priest and the Levite a sad reflection of the growing gulf between ourselves and the world around us. There are many ways to pass by at a safe distance: we can retreat inwards, ignore others, or be indifferent to their plight. Or simply look elsewhere, as in some countries, or certain sectors of them, where contempt is shown for the poor and their culture, and one looks the other way, as if a development plan imported from without could edge them out. This is how some justify their indifference: the poor, whose pleas for help might touch their hearts, simply do not exist. The poor are beyond the scope of their interest.

One detail about the passers-by does stand out: they were religious, devoted to the worship of God: a priest and a Levite. This detail should not be overlooked. It shows that belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others. The guarantee of an authentic openness to God, on the other hand, is a way of practicing the faith that helps open our hearts to our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom expressed this pointedly when he challenged his Christian hearers: “Do you wish to honor the body of the Savior? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honor it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold.” Paradoxically, those who claim to be unbelievers can sometimes put God’s will into practice better than believers.

Brief Reflection | Rachelle Kramer

Are you a prophet or a passer-by?

Personal Reflection

- *What does it mean to be prophetic today?*
- *How are you being called to be prophetic in your own life?*
- *What prevents you from being prophetic and a “truth-teller?”*

Reflection Song | The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where
 call your name? Will you care for
 call your name? Will you set the
 call your name? Will you quell the
 call my name. Let me turn and



you don't know And nev - er be the same?
 cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
 pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?
 fear in - side And nev - er be the same?
 fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do
 Will you use the faith you've found To re -
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your



let my name be known, Will you let my
 life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
 such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to
 shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
 love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?
 an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
 what I mean In you and you in me?
 touch and sound In you and you in me?
 live and grow In you and you in me.

Intercessions

Lord's Prayer

Closing Song | Ready the Way

Refrain



Read-y the way, read-y the way, read-y the way
of the Lord. of the Lord.

Verse 1




1. Make straight the road, raise the val - leys, and
1. moun-tains make low. Turn-ing from sin, let the bro-ken be whole,

to Refrain



1. and read-y the way of the Lord.

Verses 2, 3



2. As we wait for you, give us the strength to walk
3. Let us see your face; in our hearts we pre-
2. in your truth, so we may love more like you
3. - pare a place. Come bring this world your mer - cy and grace

to Refrain



2. and } read-y the way for you, Lord.
3. as we }

Join us for our next prayer on Facebook Live

In the Style of Taizé

Sunday, December 13, 9:00 PM Eastern

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Scripture: Mark 1:4-8 NABRE.