

A Taizé Service

The Preparation

Introduction and Greeting

Opening Songs *from the Taizé Community*

Bless the Lord

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

O Lord hear my prayer

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,

When I call, answer me.

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,

Come and listen to me.

Verse and Thanksgiving

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving power among the nations.

O blessed God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm 46

Wait for the Lord from the Taizé Community (sing twice each time R appears)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

Though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

The God of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold. R

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

The holy habitation of the Most High.

God is in the midst of the city;
It shall not be overthrown;

God shall help it at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the realms are shaken;

God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The God of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. R

Come now and look upon the works of the Most High,

who does awesome things on earth.

It is God who makes war to cease in all the world,
**who breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
and burns the shields with fire.**

“Be still, then, and know that I am God;
**I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth.”**

The God of hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob is our stronghold. R

[Silence is kept]

Let us pray together:

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lessons

Stay with me from the Taizé Community

(sung twice after each reading)

Stay with me, remain here with me,

Watch and pray, watch and pray.

From the Old Testament: Genesis 29:20-30

So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, ‘Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.’ So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, ‘What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?’ Laban said, ‘This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.’ Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife. (Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her maid.) So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah. He served Laban for another seven years.

From the Epistles: 1 Timothy 3:14-4:10

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great:

He was revealed in flesh,
vindicated in spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among Gentiles,
believed in throughout the world,
taken up in glory.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will renounce the faith by paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the hypocrisy of liars whose consciences are seared with a hot iron. They forbid marriage and demand abstinence from foods, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by God’s word and by prayer.

If you put these instructions before the brothers and sisters, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound teaching that you have followed. Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives’ tales. Train yourself in godliness, for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and struggle, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.

From the Gospels: Mark 10:23-31

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, ‘How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!’ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again,

‘Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.’

Peter began to say to him, ‘Look, we have left everything and followed you.’ Jesus said, ‘Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

The Prayers

A quiet time for personal prayer, reflection, and meditation

In the following quiet time, please sit and offer your own prayers, reflect on your day, or meditate on the Word of God spoken in the readings. This is your time alone with the Lord. (5 minutes)

The Lord’s Prayer

Collect of the Day

O God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: Mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Blessed are you eternal God,
to be praised and glorified forever.

Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for the unity of the Church.

May we all be one that the world may believe.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you,

that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.

We remember those who have died.

Father, into your hands we commend them.

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory.

May we also come to share your heavenly kingdom.

Have compassion on those who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble.

In your presence may they find strength.

Look with your kindness on our homes and families.

Grant that your love may grow in our hearts.

Make us alive to the needs of our community.

Help us to share one another’s joys and burdens.

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world.

Guide us and all people in the way of justice and peace.

Strengthen all who minister in Christ’s name.

Give us courage to proclaim your Gospel.

Collects

O God, the source of all goodness, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of those who have gone before us: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Jesus, remember me from the Taizé Community

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Blessing

May Christ who bore our sins upon the cross set us free to serve him with joy.

Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forever more.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer texts are from *New Zealand Prayer Book* © The Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Harper Collins 1997.

And

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