

LORD, HELP US to be HONEST and UPRIGHT

**The thoughts of the righteous are right:
but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.**

Proverbs 12: 5



**We remind ourselves that we are in the presence of the Lord.
We will take refuge in His loving heart. He is our Strength in times of
weakness. He is our Comforter in times of sorrow.**

HYMN: THE WORD IS IN YOUR HEART

**The Word is near you, deep within you!
The Word is on your lips.
The Word Who made you yet will save you.
The Word is in your heart.**

**Christ dwells in our hearts through faith,
and by this presence may we come to know the fullness
of God's love.**

**God's love surpasses all we know.
How rich are we whom God has chosen to become His very own.**

**God's spirit fills each faithful heart,
and as God's vessels we are called to live in holiness and love.**

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PSALM 19

**Lord, You have the words of everlasting life.
The Law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul;
the Lord's rule is to be trusted, the simple find wisdom.
The fear of the Lord is abiding, lasting forever;
the decrees of the Lord are true, all of them just.
The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart,
the command of the Lord is clear, giving light to the eye.
They are worth more than gold, than the finest gold,
sweeter than honey, honey from the comb.**

PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURES

**Praise the God of all creation, God of mercy and compassion:
Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise the Word of Truth and Life.**

ROMANS 1: 21–22, 28–32

For although they knew God they did not accord Him glory as God or give Him thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds were darkened. While claiming to be wise, they became fools And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God handed them over to their undiscerning mind to do what is improper.

They are filled with every form of wickedness, evil, greed, and malice; full of envy, murder, rivalry, treachery, and spite. They are gossips and scandalmongers and they hate God. They are insolent, haughty, boastful, ingenious in their wickedness, and rebellious toward their parents. They are senseless, faithless, heartless, and ruthless. Although they know the just decree of God that all who practice such things deserve death, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. The Word of the Lord!

1 TIMOTHY 2: 1–8

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all people; and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;

Who will have all people to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and us, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

I will therefore that all people pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. The Word of the Lord!

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Response: LORD, MAKE US HOLY AS YOU ARE HOLY.

When we stray from Your way, Lord...

When we are more concerned about ourselves than You, Lord...

When we choose the easy way, Lord...

When we fail to love You and our neighbor...

When we are complacent about the ills of society, Lord...

When we fail to be people of prayer, Lord...

When we fail to witness Your Gospel message, Lord...

O God, we don't ask You for revenge or retaliation. We ask You for victory, a victory of justice over falsehood, life over death, innocence over treachery, blood over the sword, goodness over evil, truth over deceit, love over hate, compassion over stinginess, faith over doubt. Amen.

REFLECTION: HOLINESS by J.C. Ryle

"Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14

The subject of holiness suggests a question which demands the attention of all professing Christians—Are we holy? Shall we see the Lord?

That question can never be out of season. The wise man tells us, "There is a time to weep, and a time to laugh—a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (Eccles. 3:4, 7); but there is no time, no, not a day, in which a person ought not to be holy. Are we?

That question concerns all ranks and conditions of people. Some are rich and some are poor—some learned and some unlearned—some masters, and some servants; but there is no rank or condition in life in which one ought not to be holy. Are we?

Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God's judgment—hating what He hates—loving what He loves.

A holy person will endeavor to shun every known sin, and to keep every known commandment. They will have a decided bent of mind toward God, a hearty desire to do His will—a greater fear of displeasing Him than of displeasing the world, and a love to all His ways.

A holy person will strive to be like our Lord Jesus Christ. He will not only live the life of faith in Him, and draw from Him all his daily peace and strength, but he will also labor to have the mind that was in Him, and to be "conformed to His image".

A holy person will follow after meekness, long-suffering, gentleness, patience, kind tempers, government of his/her tongue. Such a person will bear much, forbear much, overlook much, and be slow to talk of standing on his/her rights.

A holy person will follow after temperance and self-denial. Such a person will labor to mortify the desires of the body—to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts—to curb passions—to restrain carnal inclinations.

A holy person will follow after charity and brotherly/sisterly kindness. Such a person will endeavor to observe the golden rule of doing as one would have others do to him or her, and speaking as one would have others speak to him/her. Such a person will be full of affection towards the brethren—towards their bodies, their property, their characters, their feelings, their souls.

A holy person will follow after a spirit of mercy and benevolence towards others. Such a person will not stand all the day idle and will not be content with doing no harm—this person will try to do good and will strive to be useful in this day and generation, and to lessen the spiritual wants and misery around themselves, as far as they can.

A holy person will follow after purity of heart and will dread all filthiness and uncleanness of spirit, and seek to avoid all things that might draw themselves into it. He or she knows his/her own heart is like tinder, and will diligently keep clear of the sparks of temptation.

A holy person will follow after the fear of God. I do not mean the fear of a slave, who only works because he is afraid of punishment, and would be idle if he did not dread discovery. I mean rather the awe and reverence of a child, who wishes to live and move as if he was always before his father's face, because he loves him.

A holy person will follow after humility. Such a person will desire, in lowliness of mind, to esteem all others better than their own self. Such a person will see more evil in his/her own heart than in any other in the world.

A holy person will follow after faithfulness in all the duties and relations in life. Such a person will try, not merely to fill his/her place as well as others who take no thought for their souls, but even better, because he/she has higher motives, and more help than they.

A holy person will follow after spiritual mindedness. Such a person will endeavor to set one's affections entirely on things above, and to hold things on earth with a very loose hand. He/she will not neglect the business of the life that now is; but the first place in his/her mind and thoughts will be given to the life to come. Such a person will aim to live like one whose treasure is in heaven, and to pass through this world like a stranger and pilgrim traveling to our home. To commune with God in prayer, in the Bible, and in the assembly of His people—these things will be the holy person's greatest joy. Such a person will value every thing and place and company, just in proportion as it draws him/her nearer to God.



**Our souls are restless
until thy rest in You, O God.**

PRAYER: ONLY ONE THING IS NECESSARY

O my God, help me to remember –

That time is short, eternity is long.

What good is all the greatness of this world at the hour of death?

To love You, my God, and save my soul is the one thing necessary.

Without You, there is no peace, no joy.

My God, I need fear nothing but sin.

For to lose You, my God, is to lose all.

O my God, help me to remember –

That to gain all I must leave all,

That in loving You I have all good things: the infinite riches of Christ and His

Church, the motherly protection of Mary,

peace beyond understanding, joy unspeakable!

Eternal Father, your Son has promised that whatever we ask in His Name will

be given to us. In His Name I pray: give me a burning faith, a joyful hope, a

holy love for Jesus Christ. Give me the grace of perseverance in doing Your

will in all things. Do with me what You will. I repent of having offended You.

Grant, O Lord, that I may love You always and never let me be separated from

You. O my God and my All, make me a saint!

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

HYMN: GOD BEYOND ALL NAMES

All around us we have known You,

all creation lives to hold You.

In our living and our dying

we are bringing You to birth.

God beyond our dreams, You have stirred within us a memory;

You have placed Your powerful Spirit in the hearts of humankind.

God beyond all names, You have made us in Your image;

we are like You, we reflect You, we are woman, we are man.

God beyond all words, all creation tells Your story;

You have shaken with our laughter; You have trembled with our tears.

God beyond all time, You are laboring within us;

we are mobbing, we are changing in Your Spirit ever new.

God of tender care, You have cradled us in goodness;

You have mothered us in wholeness; You have loved us into birth.

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BLESSING

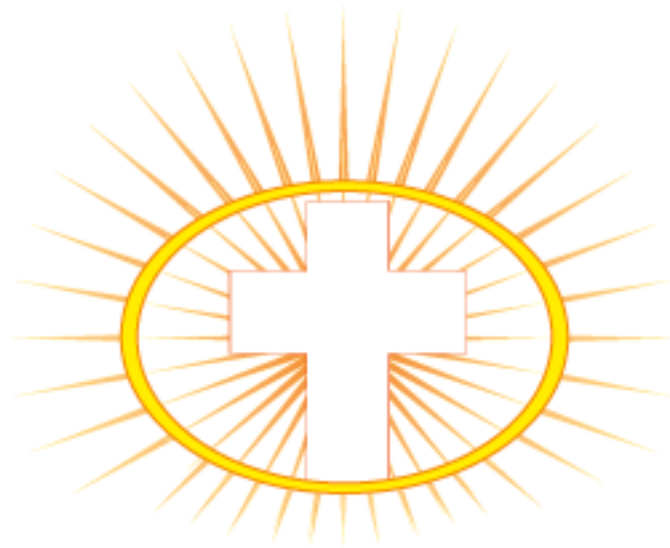
**May we feel the importance of holiness, far more than we have ever done!
May our years be holy years with our souls, and then they will be happy ones!
Whether we live, may we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, may we die
unto the Lord; or if He comes for us, may we be found in peace, without spot,
and blameless!**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



**Saint John Baptist de La Salle,
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to have our restless souls rest in God.**

**Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!**



**SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND.
CALL ON HIM WHILE HE IS NEAR!**