

Chelmsford Cathedral – Prayer for Today

THURSDAY, 25 November 2021



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

The troubled call out; God hears,
saves them from all distress.

God stays near broken hearts,
heals the wounded spirit.

The good endure great trials,
but God comes to their rescue
and guards their every bone
so not one is broken.

Words from Psalm 34

As you enter into prayer today, take a moment to be still. Come into God's presence with a deepfelt desire to meet with God now. Know that God is the God who sees you and that God is looking at you now with great love. Pause for a moment and be still.

Send your holy angels to watch over us, O loving God,
that on our lips will be found your truth
and in our hearts your love;
for his sake who died for love of our love,
even Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Jesus continues to paint a vivid image of the massive disruption that is to come. He uses Old Testament imagery that would be deeply familiar to his first hearers. And indeed, the early Christians related it directly to the events that happened 40 years later when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in response to the Jewish revolt. But note the end of the passage: this the prelude to glory and liberation. The word translated “redemption” here literally means buying someone one out of captivity - a wonderful metaphor for what Jesus has done for us through his death and resurrection.

Luke 21.20-28

Jesus said, ‘When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains, and those inside the city must leave it, and those out in the country must not enter it; for these are days of vengeance, as a fulfilment of all that is written. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! For there will be great distress on the earth and wrath against this people; they will fall by the edge of the sword and be taken away as captives among all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

*Spend some time reflecting on the reading, mulling it over.
Ask God what God wants you to hear today.*

*Offer your personal prayers and thanksgivings
and offer the day to God in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving.*

End this time of prayer by saying the Lord’s Prayer.

*To keep in touch and for more resources for daily prayer
Please visit chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk*