

Daily Office Devotional, Tuesday, May 11, 2021
The week of the sixth Sunday after Easter
The Rev. David W. Perkins, Th.D.

Today we observe the Feast of Johann Arndt and Jacob Böhme. (See below.)

Daily Office Lectionary Readings

AM Psalm 78:1-39; PM Psalm 78:40-72
Deut. 8:11-20; James 1:16-27; Luke 11:1-13

Morning Prayer, Rite 2, page 75, Book of Common Prayer
Evening Prayer, Rite 2, page 115, Book of Common Prayer
Compline (Night Prayer), Page 127, Book of Common Prayer

Daily Office Gospel, Luke 11:1-13

11:1He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' 2He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. 3Give us each day our daily bread. 4And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.' 5And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 6for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." 7And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." 8I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 9'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 10For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 12Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 13If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

David's Reflections

E. F. Scott once wrote about the Lord's Prayer: "The value of the prayer consists in this, that it represents the mind of Christ. In all ages (people) men have kept reciting it day by day, in order to remind themselves that they are Christ's

servants and must try this day to follow in his steps. The prayer, even when they say it thoughtlessly, is the abiding symbol of their belief in Christ and in his way of life.”*

Finding this quote as a seminarian, made offering the Lord's Prayer even more meaningful. To think that we are praying the mind of Christ, that expressing this prayer expresses what Jesus wants us to pray--that IS prayer. Would we be surprised to learn that Jesus continues to offer this prayer to the Father on our behalf each day?

Luke alone tells us that Jesus gave this prayer to his disciples because they asked him to teach them to pray. (Matthew has a slightly longer version in a different context.) Have you asked Jesus to teach you to pray? I must confess that I did not do so for years.

Perhaps we all should, and perhaps we should each day, because we will never learn to pray as we ought. We can hope to become more sensitive to God and to others in prayer. We can hope to listen more deeply in prayer. We can hope to open more of our life and the life of the world up to God in prayer. We can hope to be more aggressive and recklessly believing in prayer. We can hope to be more persistent in prayer. We can hope to trust the Spirit to undergird and enable our praying, even those unutterable groanings we can't put into words (Rom. 8:26).

Jesus encourages us to pray by reminding us that our Father's nature is to give, to give more lavishly and more consistently and more lovingly than we can imagine. God will give good gifts to us. God will give fresh releases of the Spirit's presence to us. Never will we receive anything as a result of our prayers that will harm us or others.

Jesus, teach me to pray as you taught your first disciples to pray.

* E. F. Scott, *The Lord's Prayer: Its Character, Purpose, and Interpretation*. (New York: Scribner's, 1951), p. 35.

Collect of the Day, The Sixth Sunday of Easter

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP, 225)

Collect of the Weekdays of Easter

Almighty God, you show the light of your truth to those who are in error, to the intent that they may return to the way of righteousness: Grant to those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to it; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Today we celebrate the Feast of Johann Arndt (died 11 May 1621 CE) and Jacob Böhme (died 17 Nov 1624 CE), mystics.

<http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/arndt-boehme.html>

Collect of the Feast of Johann Arndt and Jacob Böhme

Holy God, who dwells with those have a contrite and humble spirit; Revive our spirits; purify us from deceitful lusts; and cloth us in righteousness and true holiness; though Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.* (BCP, 123)

For the Departed

Almighty God, we remember before you today your faithful servant *N.*; and we pray that, having opened to *him* the gates of larger life, you will receive *him* more and more into your joyful service, that, with all who have faithfully served you in the past, *s/he* may share in the eternal victory of Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.* (BCP, 253)

A Prayer for Light

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, 110)

A Collect for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.* (BCP, 100)