

Jesus Prayed

Matthew 14:23-And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

(KJV)

Believers earnestly seek to directly communicate with the Lord through prayer. Individuals praying in earnest have great confidence in the Lord's attentiveness. God's reassuring presence enables believers to pray throughout their earthly lives. Prayer is essential from the time of Holy Baptism until departure from this life. Quality of life is enriched and develops in proportion to the believer's prayer life.

Matthew 26:36- Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. (KJV)

The Lord is within reach of each sincere believer seeking to connect by prayer. Prayer expresses fundamental hope and belief the effort is worthwhile with God. Believers pray to the Lord for their lives and situations to change for the better. Prayer originates deep within the person and is a firm reaching out to the Lord. The faithful believer learns to pray, what to pray for and the value of prayer.

Matthew 26:39-And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. (KJV)

The Gospels document and verify that Jesus Christ prayed on numerous occasions. Believers benefit from knowing the circumstances when Jesus Christ prayed.

Jesus Christ's examples of praying described in the Gospels inspires believers. Seeking unity with Jesus Christ through prayer is often the believer's objective. Believers regularly pray to Jesus Christ for healing, peace or mercy in their lives.

Matthew 26:42-He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. (KJV)

Prayers directed to Jesus Christ vary according to the individual person's needs. The Church has developed extensive prayers for the different experiences in life. Believers benefit greatly when learning the extensive prayers of the Church.

The Church has a multitude of prayers very practical for daily living at any age. Liturgical prayers consistently address personal needs of attentive parishioners.

Matthew 26:44-And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. (KJV)

Knowledge of the Church's prayers enables believers to make better use of them.

Growth in prayer is possible from Holy Baptism until departure from this life.

Unity with Jesus Christ is realized through fervent prayer at all ages of earthly life.

While the mind functions believers are always capable of praying to Jesus Christ.

The priorities chosen in daily life will reveal the true extent prayer is fully valued.

Matthew 26:53-Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? (KJV)

The Church considers it important for believers to know that Jesus prayed. Records of Jesus praying have been preserved in the Gospels for centuries. Believers benefit from thinking deeply about Jesus Christ engaging in prayer. The believer's relationship with Jesus Christ improves by continuous prayer. The opportunity to pray to Jesus Christ exists at every moment of earthly life.

Luke 5:16-And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed. (KJV)

Praying does not require a large vocabulary and an advanced education. The contents and conditions of the person's heart, mind and soul affect prayer. Personal priorities, interests and goals determine the nature of each prayer. A firm willingness to battle sin and evil keep the believer engaged in prayer. Desiring improved relationships in daily life motivates believers to pray to God.

Luke 9:18- And it came to pass, as he was alone praying, his disciples were with him: and he asked them, saying, Whom say the people that I am? (KJV)

Seeking to address the hunger in the soul for God is reason for daily prayer. Love for God is rightfully expressed in the way a person engages in prayer. Expressing gratitude to God has a regular place in the prayer life of believers. Prayer is a form of conversation with God and reveals the relationship's depth. Having confidence in God's attentiveness to prayer influences the believer's effort.

Luke 9:28- And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. (KJV)

A person's prayer life is expected to mature and develop as the person gets older. The innocence and honesty of children is worth keeping in mind when praying. Speaking honestly from the heart is central to communicating well with the Lord. Actively praying is the way to remove hostility from the heart, mind and soul. Expressing life's burdens to God is the way to get assistance in handling them.

Luke 9:29- And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening. (KJV)

The Church is the place for the soul's healing and prayer is the path to the Healer. Personal problems are best put in perspective and defined through fervent prayer. Active silence and stillness are essential for the serious believer's prayer life. Taking time periodically to sit in the quiet of the church does wonders for the soul. Jesus Christ is always available to listen to and heal problems plaguing the soul.

St. Stephen and Venerable Helena (Stijanovic) October 4.17, 2023.

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