

Prayers of the People: 6 October 2024

(Observance of the feast of St Francis of Assisi)

Bidding: Lord God, living and true.

Response: Hear our prayer.

You are holy, Lord, the only God,
and Your deeds are wonderful.

You are strong.

You are great.

You are the Most High.

You are Almighty.

You, Holy Father are King of heaven and earth.

You are Three and One, Lord God, all Good.

You are Good, all Good, supreme Good,
Lord God, living and true.¹

Hear our prayer.

Your servant Francis had a strong affinity with, and care for, animals and nature. Hear our prayer for all your creation, suffering as it is from the devastating effects of human greed and self-centredness. Help us to find better ways of being in the world you made and love still.

Lord God, living and true.

Hear our prayer.

Your servant Francis knew wartime and imprisonment. Hear our prayer for all who suffer in conflicts around the world – especially in the Middle East and Ukraine. For the bereaved and injured, for the oppressed and the press-ganged, for the imprisoned and exiled, Lord, come in your mercy. Make us, like Francis, seekers after peace.

Lord God, living and true.

Hear our prayer.

¹ The opening lines of “St. Francis of Assisi’s prayer in praise of God given to Brother Leo”,
https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_%20St_Francis.htm#gsc.tab=0

Your servant Francis loved your Church and yet sought to correct its imperfections. Hear our prayer for your church today, in all its varied denominations and expressions. Where we have failed you and those to whom we should render loving service, forgive us and help us to make amends. May we faithfully serve and honour you in everything we say and do.

Lord God, living and true.

Hear our prayer.

Your servant Francis rejected wealth in order to bear your good news to the community. Hear our prayer for all who do not have what they need: the poor, the homeless, the unwell, the lonely. Help us to share what we have, trusting that you have our lives in your care.

Lord God, living and true.

Hear our prayer.

Most High, Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of our minds.
Give us a right faith, a firm hope and a perfect charity,
so that we may always and in all things act according to your holy will.²

Lord God, living and true.

Hear our prayer.

Amen.

² "St. Francis of Assisi's vocation prayer",
https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_%20St_Francis.htm#gsc.tab=0