

Morning Prayer
Feast of Saint Josephine Bakhita



Praise be...

Lord, open my lips...

Glory...

Opening

Let our prayer rise before you, God of all peoples and nations.
May your grace fill the world as we commemorate the Feast of St.
Josephine Bakhita
Bring forth the reign of your justice and mercy.
We hold in our hearts all those whose lives are impacted by human
trafficking as we begin our prayer this day.

Song

Ps. 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17

ANT: Listen to me, daughter, see and bend your ear.

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear,
forget your people and your father's house.
So shall the king desire your beauty;
for he is your lord, and you must worship him.

All glorious is the king's daughter as she enters;
her raiment is threaded with spun gold.
In embroidered apparel she is borne in to the king;
behind her the virgins of her train are brought to you.

They are borne in with gladness and joy;
they enter the palace of the king.
The place of your fathers your sons shall have;
you shall make them princes through all the land.
Glory...

Psalm Prayer: “In Saint Josephine Bakhita we find a shining advocate of genuine emancipation. The history of her life inspires not passive acceptance but the firm resolve to work effectively to free girls and women from oppression and violence, and to return to them their dignity in the full exercise of their rights.”

—Pope John Paul II, homily at canonization of St Josephine Bakhita, 2000

Is. 1: 1-3

ANT: "The Lord is our help and our shield. In him do our hearts find joy. We trust in his holy name" (Ps. 28: 7)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted,
to bind up the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives,
release to the prisoners,
To announce a year of favor from the LORD
and a day of vindication by our God;

To comfort all who mourn;
To place on those who mourn in Zion
a diadem instead of ashes,
To give them oil of gladness instead of mourning,
a glorious mantle instead of a faint spirit.
Glory...

Prayer: It was the power of God which made Bakhita—in the likeness of Christ—into the one who enriches many. The poor slave–girl who had nothing showed that she was in fact the one who had the greatest treasure. And even if, humanly speaking, she seemed condemned to death, she lives! She lives just as Christ lives, though he was condemned to death and was crucified. She lives with his life!

Pope John Paul II, Eucharistic Celebration in Honor of Blessed Josephine Bakhita

Psalm 143

ANT. "Come to me, all you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11: 28).

Lord, hear my prayer;
in your faithfulness
listen to my pleading;
answer me in your righteousness.

Do not enter into judgment
with your servant;
before you no one can be just.
The enemy has pursued my soul;
he has crushed my life to the ground.
He has made me dwell in darkness
like those long dead.
My spirit is faint within me;
my heart despairs.

I remember the days of old;
I ponder all your deeds;
the works of your hands I recall.
I stretch out my hands toward you,
my soul to you like a parched land.

Hasten to answer me, Lord;
for my spirit fails me.
Do not hide your face from me,
lest I become like those
descending to the pit.

In the morning let me hear of your mercy,
for in you I trust.
Show me the path I should walk,
for I entrust my life to you.

Rescue me, Lord, from my foes,
for I seek refuge in you.



Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God.

May your kind spirit guide me
on ground that is level.
For your name's sake, Lord,
give me life;
in your righteousness lead my soul
out of distress.
In your mercy put an end to my foes;
all those who are oppressing my
soul, for I am your servant.



Glory...

Psalm Prayer: To religious believers everywhere she speaks of the value of reconciliation and love, for in her heart she overcame any feelings of hatred for those who had harmed her. She learned from the tragic events of her life to have complete trust in the Almighty who is always and everywhere present, and therefore she learned to be constantly good and generous to everyone.

John Paul II, Address on the occasion of the Beatification of Josephine Bakhita

Reading: Luke 9:23-26

Jesus said to all,

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself? Whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels."

Response: (ALL) O God, may our lives be a response to the Gospel in a way that transforms the sinful realities of the present day.

Canticle

ANT. Blessed be the Lord, for he has visited us and freed us.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
for he has come to his people and brought about their redemption.

He has raised up the sign of salvation in the house of his servant David,
as he promised through the mouth of the holy ones,
his prophets through the ages:

to rescue us from our enemies and all who hate us,
to take pity on our fathers, to remember his holy covenant
and the oath he swore to Abraham our father,
that he would give himself to us,
that we could serve him without fear
– freed from the hands of our enemies –
in uprightness and holiness before him, for all of our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High:
for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare his path,
to let his people know their salvation, so that their sins may be forgiven.

Through the bottomless mercy of our God, one born on high will visit us
to give light to those who walk in darkness, who live in the shadow of death;
to lead our feet in the path of peace.

Glory...

Intercessions:

In solidarity with those who have suffered as victims of human trafficking,
we pray ...

R: Help us affirm the dignity of all persons and denounce the sin of human
trafficking and the structural, economic and social systems that support it.

In solidarity with those who have suffered as victims of human trafficking, we pray ...

R: Help us examine our complicity as consumers and support slave free companies and products as much as possible.

In solidarity with those who have suffered as victims of human trafficking, we pray ...

R: Help us support policies and programs to help abolish and prevent trafficking, and use our ministerial resources to aid survivors where possible.

Our Father ...

Closing Prayer:

O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bride of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

