

# A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER

## Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> | Baptism of the Lord

### INTRODUCTION

*Good morning everyone. Below you will find a service of Morning Prayer that includes readings, prayers, and music. We are living through unprecedented times, and there are many ongoing challenges, but we have an amazing opportunity to take up new practices of reading, singing, and praying in our own homes. We are not alone in this. God is in our midst, leading us through.*

*Instructions: If you are in a group, choose someone to lead (unbolded parts) and the rest will respond in unison (bolded parts). You may want to divide up responsibilities for the prayers and readings. Notice too that I've included music selections that you can access online. This is entirely optional, but if it suits you, please feel free to sing and/or follow along with the lyrics. Many blessings in your time of worship. - Pastor Sean+*

### THE PENITENTIAL RITE

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found, call upon him when he draws near; let the wicked forsake their ways, and the evil ones their thoughts; and let them return to the Lord, and he will have compassion, and to our God, for he will richly pardon. *Isaiah 55.6, 7*

Let us confess our sins  
against God and our neighbour.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all of our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **OPENING SENTENCES**

Lord, open our lips,  
**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**  
O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## **THE INVITATORY**

**The Word has been made flesh and dwelt among us: O come, let us worship.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great king above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his for he made it,  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the  
sheep of his hand.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

**The Word has been made flesh and dwelt among us: O come, let us worship.**

## SONG - How Can I Keep from Singing (Audrey Assad)

<https://youtu.be/Li2hddmy63U>

My life flows on in endless song;  
above earth's lamentation,  
I catch the sweet, though far off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die?  
The Lord my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth.

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Refuge clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing?

## THE PSALMS

### PSALM 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings,  
**ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.**  
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;  
**worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.**  
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;  
**the God of glory thunders,**  
**the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.**  
The voice of the Lord is powerful;  
**the voice of the Lord is majestic.**  
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;  
**the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.**  
He makes Lebanon leap like a calf,

Sirion like a young wild ox.  
**The voice of the Lord strikes  
with flashes of lightning.**  
The voice of the Lord shakes the desert;  
**the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.**  
The voice of the Lord twists the oaks  
and strips the forests bare.  
**And in his temple all cry, "Glory!"**  
The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;  
**the Lord is enthroned as King forever.**  
The Lord gives strength to his people;  
**the Lord blesses his people with peace.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.**  
**Amen**

## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING**

A reading from Genesis, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

<sup>3</sup>And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

The word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

A reading from Acts, chapter 19, beginning at verse 1.

<sup>1</sup> While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup> and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

<sup>3</sup> So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?”

“John’s baptism,” they replied.

<sup>4</sup> Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all.

The word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God.**

### GRADUAL SONG – O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus (Lowana Wallace)

<https://youtu.be/DK72SvFQIJw>

Oh the deep, deep love of Jesus  
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free  
Rolling as a mighty ocean  
In its fullness over me

Underneath me, all around me  
Is the current of your love  
Leading onward, leading homeward  
To your glorious rest above

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus  
'Tis heaven of heavens to me  
And it lifts me up to glory  
For it lifts me up to thee

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus  
Spread his praise from shore to shore  
How he loves us, ever loves us,  
Changes never, nevermore

## GOSPEL READING

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Mark, chapter 1, beginning at verse 4.  
/ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of Christ. / **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## BIBLE STUDY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SMALL GROUPS

*Have a look at the questions below. They are deigned to help you make the most of the Gospel reading. There's no need to answer every question. Draw on them as they seem helpful for your reflection and/or discussion. The hope by the end is that our reading and meditating will turn naturally to prayer.*

### READING

- Return to the Gospel and read it again
- What stands out for you? What are your impressions? Try to isolate a moment, image, theme, phrase or word that feels important. Write it down. Take some time to reflect. Give yourself freedom to wonder.

### REFLECTING

- Imagine yourself in the story. Look around. What can you see? What can you hear? Who are the main characters? What do they look like? How do they sound?
- Where is Jesus in the story? How do the other characters relate to him? Who do they think he is?
- What is happening for you? What are you thinking and feeling? Where do you find yourself in the story? Which characters do you find easiest to relate to?
- Read the Gospel again.

- The word “Gospel” means “good news.” What makes this passage of scripture good news?

### **RESPONDING**

- We believe that God speaks into our lives and reveals himself to us through scripture. What could God be saying through our readings for this morning? How is he making himself known to you?
- God not only speaks and reveals himself, but he invites us to respond to him. Are there parts of our readings you’d like to turn back to God in prayer? Is there something you’d like to celebrate? Something to confess? Something to ask for? Something to rest in?
- When you think about your life in connection with our readings is there something you’d like to start doing? Stop doing? Continue doing?

### **SONG – Rest in You (All Sons & Daughters)**

<https://youtu.be/mVKjCKYSGT4>

Who is Lord but our Lord  
Who is God only God  
You are the highest  
You are most good

Matchless is Your love  
Our praise will rise above  
Your peace like a river  
Floods over us

Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You  
Our hearts are restless until they find rest in You  
This is where my hope lies  
This is where my souls sighs  
And I will always find my rest in You  
So full of mercy  
Beauty and mystery  
You are most hidden  
But always with us

You cannot change yet You change ev'rything

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us confess our faith as we say,

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS**

Living God,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
as wise men from distant lands were called  
to worship before the Christ child,  
open our ears to your call,  
and open our eyes to your glory.

In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord have mercy.**

For peace from on high and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,  
for the welfare of the holy Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For bishop David,  
and for all clergy and people,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth our Queen,  
for the leaders of the nations,  
and for all in authority,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this place where we live,  
for every city and community,  
and for those who live in them in faith,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery,  
let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our own needs and the needs of others,  
for the lonely, the sick and the suffering ... (we pray now for those in need, whether aloud or  
quietly in our own hearts ...)

Together we pray, **Lord have mercy**

Remembering all the saints,  
we commit ourselves, one another,  
and our whole life to Christ our God.

**To thee, O Lord.**

O Lord our God,  
you call us in the depths of our being:  
open our ears to your call,  
open our hearts to your love,  
open our minds to your will,  
that we may know you and give ourselves  
fully in your service,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## THE COLLECT

Eternal Father,  
who at the baptism of Jesus  
revealed him to be your Son,  
anointing him with the Holy Spirit,  
keep your children, born of water and the Spirit,  
faithful to their calling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## SONG – All the People Said Amen (Matt Maher)

<https://youtu.be/R377Az6RQil>

You are not alone if you are lonely  
When you feel afraid you're not the only  
We are all the same in need of mercy  
To be forgiven and be free  
It's all you got to lean on  
But thank God it's all you need

And all the people said amen whoa  
And all the people said amen  
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends  
And all the people said amen

If you're rich or poor well it don't matter  
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after  
We're all broken but we're all in this together  
God knows we stumble and fall  
And He so loved the world  
He sent His son to save us all

Blessed are the poor in spirit who are torn apart  
Blessed are the persecuted and the pure in heart  
Blessed are the people hungry for another start  
For theirs is the kingdom the kingdom of God

## **DISMISSAL**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and  
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. **Amen.**