

# Morning Prayer

Confession of St. Peter the Apostle

January 18, 2023

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

*Officiant and People* ***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.***

*Officiant* The Lord is glorious in his saints:  
Come let us adore him.

## Jubilate

*Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise;  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

## The Psalm Appointed *(appointed for the day)*

*Psalm 23*

The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul  
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

**You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.**

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

**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 Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*Acts 4: 8-13*

Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is  
`the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone.'

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

### **Canticle 16      The Song of Zechariah**

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

*ILuke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
**he has come to his people and set them free.**

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
**born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
**from the hands of all who hate us.**

He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
**and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,  
**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

Free to worship him without fear,  
**holy and righteous in his sight**  
**all the days of our life.**

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

To give his people knowledge of salvation  
**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God  
**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
**and to guide our feet into the way of 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 Gospel**

<i>Gospeller</i>	The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew	<i>Matthew 16: 13-19</i>
<i>People</i>	<b><i>Glory to you, Lord Christ.</i></b>	

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People*

***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.*

## The Prayers

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          ***And also with you.***

*Officiant*      Let us pray.

***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, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. ***And grant us your salvation.***

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. ***Let your people sing with joy.***

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. ***For only in you can we live in safety.***

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. ***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. ***Your saving health among all nations.***

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. ***Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.***

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. ***And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.***

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty Father, who inspired Simon Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God: Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

*Officiant* 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, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

## Spiritual Communion

Let us pray together a prayer for Spiritual Communion:

**Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. We are grateful to know there are many ways to experience your presence, but in whatever way we do, we know you come into our hearts, minds and souls. Unite my heart with those of my family of faith and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant me confidence in your loving care now and forever. *Amen.***

## The General Thanksgiving

*Officiant* Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. ***Amen.***

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

*Officiant* 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.***

## **Bible Study**

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

### **Commentary on Matthew 4: 12-23**

Jesus’ ministry begins after his temptation, with the news of John’s arrest.

Although Matt 4:12 says that Jesus “withdrew” into Galilee, Jesus’ move was less a retreat and more a journey into the lion’s den. As Matthew will divulge later, the ruler of Galilee, Herod Antipas, was the one who had John arrested. John’s arrest foreshadows Jesus’ own.

Capernaum, where Jesus made his home, was a town of about 1,000 people. Its inhabitants relied on farming and fishing to survive. Though Jesus has already been named “Son of God,” he lives not among the rich and powerful, but among the common people. Capernaum was located on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee.

This region had historically belonged to the tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali, but in the first century it truly was “Galilee of the Gentiles” (4:15, quoting Isaiah 9:1), conquered by Rome and ruled by a Roman puppet whom few Jews regarded as authentically Jewish. Herod Antipas was notorious for his brutality and for his intolerance of any who threatened his claims to

power. Into this context of danger and darkness and death comes Jesus, proclaiming deliverance and light and life.

Jesus' message is identical to John's: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near" (Matthew 4:17; cf. 3:2). Though the content is the same, the context is very different. John was the forerunner, who prepared the way. Jesus is the embodiment of the message. In his preaching and in his ministry, light has dawned and the reign of God has come.

Like John, Jesus calls people to repent. The Greek verb "repent" (*metanoeo*), like the Hebrew verb "repent" (*shub*), means "turn around." Repentance in biblical thought involves not merely apology, but change: change direction, change your behavior, change your life.

The next two scenes illustrate how dramatically lives can change when Jesus appears. In the first scene Matthew depicts Jesus going out for a stroll by the lake and encountering two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew, hard at work fishing. "Follow me," he says, "and I will make you fish for people." This first scene highlights Jesus' call to a new life's work. Without comments or questions, Peter and Andrew abandon the tools of their trade and follow him.

In the second scene Jesus sees another set of brothers, James and John the sons of Zebedee, in a boat with their father. Jesus calls them, too. This scene emphasizes the invitation to Jesus' new community. James and John immediately leave both the boat and their father, who is mentioned three times in the passage. Jesus' call takes priority over family commitments, a startling idea in an era when family connections were a primary source both of identity and of honor, and when the responsibility to care for one's parents was rooted both in cultural custom and in biblical law.

Jesus calls his disciples to a new way of life in the reign of God. At its most basic, discipleship means following Jesus, getting behind him and going wherever he leads. For these first disciples it will be a difficult road, and despite their initial obedience to Jesus' call, in the coming days they will often fail both to understand and to obey him. They will sleep through his agony in the garden of Gethsemane, they will flee when he is arrested, and Peter will deny that he even knows Jesus.

Yet, on the other side of their failure, Jesus' message will reach them, entrusted by the angel at the tomb to the two Marys: "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him" (Matthew 28:7). They will run away, but Jesus will not give up on them. He will call them to repent, to turn around and go back to the place where it all began. They will fail, but afterwards they will be called to follow once again. From these first scenes by the Sea of Galilee through the rest of their lives, Jesus calls his disciples to live out the promise and hope that he embodies.

In the final verse of today's reading, Jesus himself begins to enact God's reign. In his teaching, in his preaching, and in his ministry of healing, he announces and reveals God's light dawning on a dark world, God's rule triumphing over the powers of evil and death.

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