

# Lenten Morning Prayer

April 2, 2025

## Opening Sentence

*Officiant* Rend your hearts and not your garments.  
Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. *Joel 2:13*

## The Confession

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***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 neighbors 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.***

*Officiant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen.***

## 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 full of compassion and mercy:

***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.**

**Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble;  
my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
and also my throat and my belly.**

**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails me because of affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.**

**I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,  
a dismay to those of my acquaintance;  
when they see me in the street they avoid me.**

**I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind;  
I am as useless as a broken pot.**

**For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around;  
they put their heads together against me;  
they plot to take my life.**

**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord.  
I have said, "You are my God.**

**My times are in your hand;  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.**

**Make your face to shine upon your servant,  
and in your loving-kindness save me."**

**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 Book of the Prophet Jeremiah**

*Jeremiah 18: 1-11, 18-20*

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant

it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings. Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah—for instruction shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us bring charges against him, and let us not heed any of his words."

Give heed to me, O Lord,

and listen to what my adversaries say!

Is evil a recompense for good?

Yet they have dug a pit for my life.

Remember how I stood before you

to speak good for them,

to turn away your wrath from them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Canticle 14 A Song of Penitence

*Kyrie Pantokrator*

*Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15*

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven,

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,

***and of all their righteous offspring:***

You made the heavens and the earth,

***with all their vast array.***

All things quake with fear at your presence;

***they tremble because of your power.***

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure;

***it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.***

O Lord, you are full of compassion,

***long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.***

You hold back your hand;

***you do not punish as we deserve.***

In your great goodness, Lord, you have promised forgiveness to sinners,

***that they may repent of their sin and be saved.***

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart,

***and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.***

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned,

***and I know my wickedness only too well.***

Therefore I make this prayer to you:

***Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.***

Do not let me perish in my sin,  
***nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.***

For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent,  
***and in me you will show forth your goodness.***

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, in accordance with your great mercy,  
***and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.***

For all the powers of heaven sing your praises,  
***and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.***

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**

*Gospeller*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.      *Matthew 20: 17-28*  
*People*      ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.”

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” He said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

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

*Officiant* O God, you so loved the world that you gave your only- begotten Son to reconcile earth with heaven: Grant that we, loving you above all things, may love our friends in you, and our enemies for your sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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. ***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: John 12: 1-8

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

### Reflection on John: 12: 1-8

A company of friends gather around a table to feast. Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the grave, is hosting the feast. Martha busily serves Jesus and the disciples, possibly with food and wine. Mary pours out a costly bottle of nard on Jesus' feet. Her act of devotion is the focal point of the tableau of friends.

Retellings of this gospel story rightly focus on Mary's sacrificial devotion and Jesus' sharp rebuke of Judas. There is much we can learn from Mary's devotion and Jesus' wit, but I cannot help but draw your attention to the company of friends who surround the table – what do you notice Mary, Martha, and Lazarus doing? Henri Nouwen eruditely observes that hospitality is "the creation of free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy." Mary, Martha, and Lazarus create a free and spacious space for friendships to form and deepen.

Twenty-first-century modern life, with its never-ending to-do lists and a constant barrage of electronic information, is a far cry from first-century Palestine; the relentless pace leaves little room for reflection, rest, or the practice of genuine hospitality. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus must have had concerns and worries too, but with their shared effort pitching in what they could, they created a feast overflowing with affection and love for Jesus.

- What character in the story are you most drawn to?
- How might God be prompting you to take up the practice of hospitality?
- Where might you need to receive hospitality from God or others?