

# Morning Prayer

April 30, 2025

## Opening Sentence

*Officiant* On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 118:24*

## 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* Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:  
***Come let us adore him. Alleluia.***

## Venite

*Psalm 95:1-7*

**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 molded 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 Psalm Appointed *(appointed for the day)*

*Psalm 67*

**May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.

May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

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 12: 24-13: 5*

But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a member of the court of Herod the ruler, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John also to assist them.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

#### Canticle 12 A Song of Creation *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* *Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Let the earth glorify the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams,  
O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild,  
and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Let the people of God glorify the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,  
***praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

## **The Gospel**

*Gospeller*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*John 12: 44-50*

*People*

***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Then Jesus cried aloud: "Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me. I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness. I do not judge anyone who hears my words and does not keep them, for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my word has a judge; on the last day the word that I have spoken will serve as judge, for I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I speak, therefore, I speak just as the Father has told me."

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* Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; 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* Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us.  
We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.  
We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.  
We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *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**

### **John 21: 1-19**

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

### **Reflection on John 21: 1-19**

Reading John's account of Jesus' resurrection appearance on the shore evokes deep gratitude in me for Christ's persistent willingness to offer restoration. Jesus' gentle questioning of Peter after Peter's painful denial feels profoundly personal, revealing a savior who meets us exactly in the spaces of our greatest regret and vulnerability.

The threefold repetition of "Do you love me?" not only reinstates Peter but also provides him with clear direction—"Feed my sheep."

For me, this narrative is an encouraging reminder that restoration and forgiveness lead directly into mission and responsibility.

- Can you recall a moment when Jesus met you compassionately in your own places of regret or failure? How did this encounter renew your sense of purpose?
- In practical terms, what might feeding Jesus' sheep look like in your current circumstances or community?