

# Morning Prayer

Martin Luther, Pastor and Reformer, 1546

February 15, 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*      Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:  
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 46*

**God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.**

**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;**

**Though its waters rage and foam,  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.**

**The Lord of hosts is with us;  
The God of Jacob is our stronghold.**

**There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
The holy habitation of the Most High.**

God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown;  
God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken;  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come now and look upon the works of the Lord,  
what awesome things he has done on earth.

It is he who makes war to cease in all the world;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.

"Be still, then, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

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 Prophet Isaiah

*Isaiah 55: 6-11*

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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**

*Gospeller  
People*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*John 15:1-11*

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## Reflection

Martin Luther was born November 10, 1483. His intellectual abilities were evident early, and his father planned a career for him in law. Luther's real interest lay elsewhere, however, and in 1505 he entered the local Augustinian monastery. He was ordained a priest April 3, 1507. In October 1512 Luther received his doctorate in theology, and shortly afterward he was installed as a professor of biblical studies at the University of Wittenberg. His lectures on the Bible were popular, and within a few years he made the university a center for biblical humanism. As a result of his theological and biblical studies he called into question the practice of selling indulgences. On the eve of All Saints' Day, October 31, 1517, he posted on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg the notice of an academic debate on indulgences, listing 95 theses for discussion. As the effects of the theses became evident, the Pope called upon the Augustinian order to discipline their member. After a series of meetings, political maneuvers, and attempts at reconciliation, Luther, at a meeting with the papal legate in 1518, refused to recant.

Luther was excommunicated on January 3, 1521. The Emperor Charles V summoned him to the meeting of the Imperial Diet at Worms. There Luther resisted all efforts to make him recant, insisting that he had to be proved in error on the basis of Scripture. The Diet passed an edict calling for the arrest of Luther. Luther's own prince, the Elector Frederick of Saxony, however, had him spirited away and placed for safekeeping in his castle, the Wartburg. Here Luther translated the New Testament into German and began the translation of the Old Testament. He then turned his attention to the organization of worship and education. He introduced congregational singing of hymns, composing many himself, and issued model orders of services. He published his large and small catechisms for instruction in the faith. During the years from 1522 to his death, Luther wrote a prodigious quantity of books, letters, sermons and tracts. Luther died on February 18, 1546.

## 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**

O God, our refuge and our strength, who raised up your servant Martin Luther to reform and renew your church in the light of your word: Defend and purify the church in our own day and grant that, through faith, we may boldly proclaim the riches of your grace, which you have made known in Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, 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 17: 1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

### Reflection on Matthew 17: 1-9

On this Transfiguration Sunday, the Gospel passage is indeed about the Transfiguration, the disciples' vision of Jesus' shining form, and the Father's words about him. Peter, James, and John, after seeing Jesus' stunning, luminous appearance, and seeing him speak with Moses and Elijah, hear these words: “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” The spare and economic use of the voice of the Father in the New Testament lends emphasis when we do hear it, and centers on Jesus' belovedness. It is his belovedness that gives him authority, and it is his belovedness by the Father that he has come to share with all of humanity.

With dazzling changes in Jesus' appearance and a cloud filled with light that can somehow overshadow everything, the voice of the Almighty God fills the air, speaking of Jesus' divine

authority: “Listen to him.” Immediately, Jesus gives Peter, James, and John an opportunity to heed the Father’s words; he gives a command: “Get up and do not be afraid.”

- How does God proclaim my belovedness?
- When have I heard Jesus say, “Get up and do not be afraid”?