



Morning Prayer
Wednesday March 3, 2021
Wednesday in the Second Week of Lent
10 am on Zoom

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me. Psalm 51:11]*

Opening Sentence

Examine me, O God, and know my heart, test me and discover my thoughts, and lead me in the way everlasting. [Psalm 139:23-24]

Opening Prayer

(David Adam)

Come, Lord, come to us. Enter our darkness with your light, Fill our emptiness with your presence, Come refresh, restore, renew us. In our sadness, come as joy, In our troubles, come as peace, In our fearfulness, come as hope, In our darkness, come as light, In our frailty, come as strength, In our loneliness come as love, Come, refresh, restore, renew us. **Amen**

The Confession

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Today, if you would hear God's voice: harden not your hearts.

Invitatory Psalm 67:1-5

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, * show us the light of your countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, * your saving health 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 all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you.

Psalm 31:9-16

- ⁹ Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also.
- ¹⁰ For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.
- ¹¹ I am the scorn of all my adversaries, a horror to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances; those who see me in the street flee from me.
- ¹² I have passed out of mind like one who is dead; I have become like a broken vessel.
- ¹³ For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life.
- ¹⁴ But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, ‘You are my God.’
- ¹⁵ My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.
- ¹⁶ Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love.

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah 18:1-11, 18-20

18The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: ²‘Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.’ ³So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴The 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. ⁵ Then the word of the Lord came to me: ⁶Can 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. ⁷At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸but 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. ⁹And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰but 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. ¹¹Now, 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. . . .

18 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.’ ¹⁹ Give heed to me, O Lord, and listen to what my adversaries say! ²⁰ 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.

Canticle: Lamentations 1:12,16; 3:19,22-24,26

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? *

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
Which was brought upon me, * inflicted by God's fierce anger.
For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, *

for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my courage.
Remember my affliction and my bitterness, * wormwood and gall!
The steadfast love of God never ceases, * God's mercies never end.
They are new every morning; * great is your faithfulness.
"God is my portion," says my soul, * "therefore will I hope in God."
It is good that we should wait quietly * for the coming of God's salvation.

The Second Lesson: The Gospel of Matthew 20:17-28

17 While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, ¹⁸'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; ¹⁹then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.' 20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. ²¹And 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.' ²²But 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.' ²³He 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.' 24 When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. ²⁵But 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. ²⁶It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; ²⁸just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him * in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, * he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, * and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, * and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, * to Abraham and his children forever.

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

The Apostles' Creed

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

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

V. Help us, O God our Savior; **R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

V. Look upon your congregation; **R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

V. Declare your glory among the nations; **R. And your wonders among all peoples.**

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Lord's Prayer

Collect of the Day

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, on God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for our Nation

Spirit of justice, creator Spirit; help us to make and keep this country a home for all its different peoples, and grant to our leaders imagination, courage and wisdom, that there may grow amongst us wellbeing and peace. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Women's History Month

Rev. Jude Geiger

Spirit of renewal, God of many names, Loving God and God of Love we turn this month to reflect on the stories, the heritage and the struggles of the women throughout the ages. May we pause before the silences of the ages, find who has been left out, and craft new ways of inclusion for every week, and every month. May this month of reflection teach us to search for those stories that are different from our own. May we come to know ourselves changed, renewed where we are dry, hopeful where we are lost, and open where we are shut. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Justice

The Rev. Marie Elizabeth Dyer

Dear Lord, our Heavenly Father, help us to be your servants to those hungry for peace, not division; to people whose souls clamor for the sustenance of justice and an end to crimes of violence and greed; to those longing for a night's sleep without the fear of starvation. Help us to be your servants to those thirsty for water, unpolluted water, parched for understanding, for living water. Help us to be your servants to those strangers who live next door, the handicapped, the addicted, the outcasts. Remind us they are your friends, made in your image. May we see you in others each day of our lives. This we pray for Christ's sake. **Amen.**

A Prayer in Time of Transition

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 500, 000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for an End to Racism

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Blessing

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go now to follow the way of Jesus: see others as he did; dare to give freely as he did; to resist temptation as he did; and to love unconditionally as he did. **Thanks be to God.**