

A Service of Morning Prayer
March 16, 2025
Second Sunday in Lent



"Begone Evil Spirit"
 Painting by contemporary artist Geoff Holsclaw

If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. *Psalm 95:7-8*

CP 505 Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
 Thou my best thought by day or by night
 Waking or sleeping they presence my light

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
 Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 Riches I heed not, nor the world's empty
 praise;
 Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
 Thou and thou only first in my heart,
 High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 High King of heaven, when victory is won;
 May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
 Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
 Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 And the love of God,
 And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
 Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
To you all hearts are open,
All desires known,
And from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
That we may perfectly love you,
And worthily magnify your holy name;
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 27 *Refrain: Happy are they who fear the Lord.*

27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

27:2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh-- my adversaries and foes-- they shall stumble and fall.

27:3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

27:4 One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

27:5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

27:6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

27:7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

27:8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

27:9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

27:10 If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

27:11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

27:12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

27:13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

A Reading from Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."

15:2 But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

15:3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

15:4 But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."

15:5 He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

15:6 And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

15:7 Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

15:8 But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"

15:9 He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."

15:10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two.

15:11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

15:12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

15:17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.

15:18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates...."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 401 My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in endless song
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain

***No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?***

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing;
it sounds and echoes in my soul;
how can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

3 What though the tempest 'round me roar,
I hear the truth it liveth.
What though the darkness round me close,
songs in the night it giveth. **Refrain**

4 When tyrants tremble,
sick with fear, and hear their death knells
ringing;
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

5 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am his;
how can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

A Reading from Philippians 3:17-4:1

3:17 Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.

3:18 For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.

3:19 Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.

3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

3:21 He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 61 As We Gather at Your Table

1 As we gather at your table,
as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence;
let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story
till we claim it as our own;
teach us through this holy banquet
how to make Love's victory known.

2 Turn our worship into witness
in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you,
bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion
to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image
in the world you died to save.

3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon
other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome
those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us
nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels
to repeat the sounding joy

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 13:31-35

13:31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

13:32 He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.

13:33 Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'

13:34 Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

13:35 See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 5376377 You Alone Can Rescue

1 Who O Lord could save themselves
 Their own soul could heal
 Our shame was deeper than the sea
 Your grace is deeper still (REPEAT)

Chorus 1

***And You alone can rescue
 You alone can save
 You alone can lift us from the grave
 You came down to find us led us out of
 death
 To You alone belongs the highest praise***

2 You O Lord have made a way
 The great divide You healed
 For when our hearts were far away
 Your love went further still
 Yes Your love goes further still

Chorus 2

***And You alone can rescue
 You alone can save
 You alone can lift us from the grave
 You came down to find us led us out of
 death
 To You alone belongs the highest praise
 To You alone belongs the highest praise
 You alone***

Bridge

We lift up our eyes
 Lift up our eyes
 You're the giver of life
 We lift up our eyes
 Lift up our eyes
 You're the giver of life (REPEAT 4X)

Ending

To You alone belongs the highest praise
 To You alone belongs the highest praise
 To You alone

Affirmation of Faith (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.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

Let us pray in the power of the Holy Spirit who guides and enables the people of God, saying:
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer,

Hear our prayer.

Lord as your word has been revealed from the days of Abraham until this time, make us faithful in our generation to believe your promises and follow the guidance of your Holy Spirit. We pray for your church throughout the world:

- for the Church of the Province of Central Africa
- for the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, the Most Rev. Chris Harper.
- for St. Matthew, St. Albert and her Rector, Lee Bezanson, and her Assistant Priest, Rebecca Harris.
- for the Buyé Diocese, and the Gatukuza Parish and her Rector, Pascal Kagenza.
- for the people and community of the Ermineskin Cree Nation.
- for the Diocese of Edmonton, her Bishop, Stephen, all her clergy and staff.
- for our own community of St. Peter's, the ministry team of Arthur, Alison, our musician, Nadine, and all others who serve in the many ways needed. We thank you for those who have served throughout the years and who have been for us a model of true and humble service. We thank you for the friends we have made over the years.

During this period of Lent, give us a new awareness of your unique sacrifice on our behalf and teach us to be humble in acknowledging that all our gifts come from you for the service of all people and the spread of your Kingdom. May you live in us so that in all our small acts of sacrifice the light of your resurrection may shine through and give them meaning. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord, you walked on earth and told men to look around them to find God. And men saw the beauty and wonders of earth and sky, of flower of field. When we look around we often see factories, offices, houses, cars and traffic and it is easy to forget that the world belongs to you. Help us to recognise your presence in our modern world, in the wonders of science, in the discoveries men and women have made, in finding and using the resources of the earth. We pray that we may be careful stewards of all your bounteous gifts to us and that we may never cease to marvel in the wonder and mystery of your creation. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for and give you thanks for our community here in Edmonton and those who live around us; our neighbours, friends and for the people with whom we work and share our daily lives. We pray for those who are seniors and lonely, those isolated because of ill-health, and those who find it difficult to be accepted. Show us all what we can do to help everyone around us and teach us to be good neighbours and true friends. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord we acknowledge with shame and sorrow all the sin, hatred, and injustice which have led and still lead to violence and war. We pray for the situation in Ukraine and all places in the world where tensions are high, and the peace that is your will seems so far away. We pray that nations and people everywhere may turn to you, the Prince of Peace, so that war and terror, cruelty and hatred may end and peace and justice, kindness and love may reign. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We thank you Lord for your many miracles of healing, and we pray for all who are suffering in any way; the sick in mind, body, or spirit, the homeless, the jobless, the addicted, the lonely, the prisoners, those who feel they are not accepted and all who suffer. We name those who have particularly requested that we pray for them:

Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Tony and Mary Jean..... Bill..... Florence..... Lisa.....
 Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica.....
 Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Skariah..... Ruth..... Mike and his
 family.....Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family.....
 Pauline and Richard.....Jorges and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena.

And we bring before you in a moment of quietness those others we know or love, who are ill or in any kind of need at this time, those we hold close in our hearts, and those known to you alone.....

We pray that your blessing be upon them and those who love and care for them and we pray that they may find encouragement and peace, that their sorrows and concerns be transformed into comfort, and their loneliness into fellowship with you. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord we ask you to be with all those who are grieving today over the loss of a loved one. May their sorrow be lit with the brightness of the Resurrection. May they be assured that they will meet again those whom they have loved and lost for a while.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died, and we remember that you turn our darkness into light and in your light shall we see light. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord, as we leave here and go out into the world today we remember that your son was often tempted by the forces of evil but chose faithfulness rather than popularity, service instead of fame, sacrifice instead of power. These temptations still come to us, Lord, and we are far weaker than our Lord Jesus. We pray for the strength to shun them as he did so that we may be of use to God and to our fellow travelers on the road of life. You have taught us to overcome our sins with prayer, repentance, love, and generosity. We pray that you accept our Lenten disciplines and when we fall because of our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
 whose Son was revealed in majesty
 before he suffered death upon the cross,
 give us faith to perceive his glory,
 that being strengthened by his grace
 we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 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,
 the power, and the glory,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

CP 577 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
 now fulfil your church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower,
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
 Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness. Bend our pride to your control.
 Shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
 armoured with all Christ-like graces in the fight for liberty.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 lest we fail ourselves and thee, lest we fail ourselves and thee.

The Dismissal

If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. *Psalm 95:7–8*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness
 working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for
 ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
 and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.