

A Service of Morning Prayer

July 20, 2025



Christ in the House of Mary and Martha, by Johannes Vermeer, about 1654-1655

On display in Scottish National Gallery

Blessed are they who hold the word fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. *See Luke 8:15*

CP 306 O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace.

3 He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.

5 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.

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 52*Refrain: Your works are wonderful, O Lord.*

52:1 Why do you boast, O mighty one, of mischief done against the godly? All day long
 52:2 you are plotting destruction. Your tongue is like a sharp razor, you worker of treachery.
 52:3 You love evil more than good and lying more than speaking the truth. Selah
 52:4 You love all words that devour, O deceitful tongue.
 52:5 But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will
 uproot you from the land of the living.
 52:6 The righteous will see and fear and will laugh at the evildoer, saying,
 52:7 "See the one who would not take refuge in God but trusted in abundant riches and
 sought refuge in wealth!"
 52:8 But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God
 forever and ever.
 52:9 I will thank you forever because of what you have done. In the presence of the faithful I
 will proclaim your name, for it is good.

A Reading from Amos 8:1-12

8:1 This is what the Lord GOD showed me: a basket of summer fruit.
 8:2 He said, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A basket of summer fruit." Then the
 LORD said to me, "The end has come upon my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.
 8:3 The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day," says the Lord GOD; "the
 dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!"
 8:4 Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
 8:5 saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so
 that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
 and practice deceit with false balances,
 8:6 buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of
 the wheat."
 8:7 The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
 8:8 Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it, and all of it
 rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?
 8:9 On that day, says the Lord GOD, I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the
 earth in broad daylight.
 8:10 I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring
 sackcloth on all loins and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only
 son and the end of it like a bitter day.
 8:11 The time is surely coming, says the Lord GOD, when I will send a famine on the land,
 not a famine of bread or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.
 8:12 They shall wander from sea to sea and from north to east; they shall run to and fro,
 seeking the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 559 Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

1 Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you.
By your gospel pure and holy,
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.

2 All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us,
You must work all Good within us.

3 Glorious Lord, yourself impart!
Light of light, from God proceeding,
Open lips and ears and heart,
Help us by your Spirit's leading.
Hear the cry your church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises!

A Reading from Acts 25:6-12; 26:24-32

^{25/6} After he had stayed among them for not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea; the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought.

⁷ When he arrived, the Jews who had gone down from Jerusalem surrounded him, bringing many serious charges against him, which they could not prove.

⁸ Paul said in his defence, 'I have in no way committed an offence against the law of the Jews, or against the temple, or against the emperor.'

⁹ But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favour, asked Paul, 'Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and be tried there before me on these charges?'

¹⁰ Paul said, 'I am appealing to the emperor's tribunal; this is where I should be tried. I have done no wrong to the Jews, as you very well know.'

¹¹ Now if I am in the wrong and have committed something for which I deserve to die, I am not trying to escape death; but if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can turn me over to them. I appeal to the emperor.'

¹² Then Festus, after he had conferred with his council, replied, 'You have appealed to the emperor; to the emperor you will go.'

^{26/24} While he was making this defence, Festus exclaimed, 'You are out of your mind, Paul! Too much learning is driving you insane!'

²⁵ But Paul said, 'I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking the sober truth.'

²⁶ Indeed the king knows about these things, and to him I speak freely; for I am certain that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this was not done in a corner.

²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.'

²⁸ Agrippa said to Paul, 'Are you so quickly persuading me to become a Christian?'^[a]

²⁹ Paul replied, 'Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that not only you but also all who are listening to me today might become such as I am—except for these chains.'

³⁰ Then the king got up, and with him the governor and Bernice and those who had been seated with them;

³¹ and as they were leaving, they said to one another, 'This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.'

³² Agrippa said to Festus, 'This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to the emperor.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 508 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

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 10:38-42

10:38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home.

10:39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying.

10:40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me."

10:41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things,

10:42 but few things are needed--indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 5806878 I Will Follow***Intro***

Where You go I'll go
 Where You stay I'll stay
 When You move I'll move
 I will follow
 Oh oh oh

1 All Your ways are good
 All Your ways are sure
 I will trust in You alone
 Higher than my sight
 High above my life
 I will trust in You alone

Chorus

***Where You go I'll go
 Where You stay I'll stay
 When You move I'll move
 I will follow You
 Whom You love I'll love
 How You serve I'll serve
 If this life I lose
 I will follow (You)***

Interlude

Yeah I will follow You yeah

2 Light into the world
 Light into my life
 I will live for You alone
 You're the One I seek
 Knowing I will find
 All I need in You alone
 In You alone

Bridge

In You there's life everlasting
 In You there's freedom for my soul
 In You there's joy unending joy
 And I will follow

Ending

Yeah I will follow You yeah
 I will follow You yeah
 I will follow You yeah

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

With these prayers we come before you with open hearts and minds to express our concerns for the Church and the world, to the God of compassion and gracious understanding, saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church :

- In the world-wide communion for the Church of Pakistan
- In the Anglican Church of Canada for the Diocese of Moosonee and her Bishop-elect, the Rev. Rodney Brant Francis,.
- for the Anglican Church Women: Elaine Dickie, Diocesan President.
- for the Buyé Diocese and the Vumbi Parish and her Rector, Jean Baptiste Muhigirwa.
- for the people and community of the Louis Bull Tribe.
- for the Diocese of Edmonton, Stephen, her Bishop, and all clergy and congregations.

We give thanks for this community of St. Peter's. We thank you for calling us to be your helpers in building your kingdom in our little corner. Thank you for our ministry team of Arthur, Alison, Nadine, Emily, Jorge and Julia, all readers and intercessors, all who are so willing to lead us in our in-person and online services and bring your word to as many as we can, including those who are unable to leave their homes. We thank you for those who are willing to give their time and energy to serving you and this community in so many ways. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for our world:

Lord, today we pray for a world that is suffering the effects of climate change. We pray for all whom disaster has left homeless, injured, or bereaved. Be the support of all who give their strength, their skill, and their stamina in a ministry of fighting against these disasters and providing relief to those who suffer. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Creator God, increase in us love not only for the victims but for the perpetrators of evil and violence in our world; for all governments which run on corruption and fear. We pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong principles. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Loving God, we pray for all offenders in prison, that on release they will not re-offend but find enough support to start a new life in the community. We pray for all who are vulnerable and unable to cope with the demands of life, for all who are struggling with addiction, all who are homeless, jobless, all who are losing hope that they will be able to carry on. We pray for proper, compassionate help for them. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Father God, may our closeness to family and friends make us never exclusive, shutting others out, but always inclusive, welcoming all others. Encourage us in outgoing hospitality and keep us from becoming possessive with those we love. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are suffering and are frightened, confused, worried or lonely because they are ill and for all who care for those who are suffering, whether at home, in nursing homes or in hospital. We bring before you those who have requested our prayers:

Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Tony and Mary Jean..... Florence..... Lisa and Joe..... Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica..... Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Skariah..... Ruth..... Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family..... Pauline and Richard.....Jorges and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... those we name quietly within our hearts and those known to you alone.

Give them courage, hope and peace, and the knowledge that you are present in their weakness, pain, and suffering. We pray especially for those who have no one to help them, that in their loneliness they may know that you are with them. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Merciful God, we pray for all who are mourning the loss of a loved one, all who stand vigil over one who is nearing this journey's end and for the souls of all who have entered that state of eternal rest. We pray for those who have died alone, un-mourned and unnoticed. We commend them to your merciful love. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Faithful God, thank you for helping us to pray. As we leave this worship and prepare for a new week, deepen our commitment to share your love so that as we pray and live through this coming week we may do it with your heart of compassion. Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us pure hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
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 511 Lord Jesus, Think On Me

1 Lord Jesus, think on me
 and purge away my sin:
 from earth-born passions set me free
 and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus think on m e,
 with man-ya care oppressed;
 let me thy loving servant be
 and taste thy promised rest.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me,
 nor let me go astray;
 through darkness and perplexity
 point thou the heavenly way.

4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
 that, when the flood is past,
 I may the e-ternal brightness see
 and share thy joy at last.

5 Lord Jesus, think on me,
 that I may sing above
 to Father, Holy Ghost, and thee
 the songs of praise and love.

The Dismissal

Blessed are they who hold the word fast in an honest and
 good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience. *See Luke 8:15*

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.