

**A Service of Morning Prayer  
Wednesday, December 17, 2025  
Advent 3 – Year A**



***Christ Healing the Mother of Simon Peter's Wife***  
by John Bridges, 1839, Birmingham Museum of Art

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**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.**

CP 162 Sing of God Made Manifest

1 Sing of God made manifest  
in a child robust and blest,  
to whose home in Bethlehem  
where a star had guided them,  
magi came and gifts unbound,  
signs mysterious and profound:  
myrrh and frankincense and gold  
grave and God and king foretold.

2 Sing of God made manifest  
when at Jordan John confessed,  
"I should be baptized by you,  
but your bidding I will do."  
Then from heaven a double sign --  
dove-like Spirit, voice divine --  
hailed the true Anointed One:  
"This is my beloved Son."

3 Sing of God made manifest  
when Christ came as wedding-guest  
and at Cana gave a sign,  
turning water into wine;  
further still was love revealed  
as he taught, forgave, and healed,  
bringing light and life to all  
who would listen to God's call.

4 Sing of God made manifest  
on the cloud-capped mountain's crest,  
where the law and prophets waned  
so that Christ alone remained:  
glimpse of glory, pledge of grace,  
given as Jesus set his face  
towards the waiting cross and grave,  
sign of hope that God would save.

Gathering: 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.**

Trisagion: Holy God,  
 Holy and mighty,  
 Holy and immortal one,  
 Have mercy on us. (3x)

Psalm 42      *Refrain: God is the help of my countenance.*

<sup>1</sup> As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

<sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

<sup>4</sup> These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

<sup>5</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help

<sup>6</sup> and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

<sup>7</sup> Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

<sup>8</sup> By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

<sup>9</sup> I say to God, my rock, 'Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?'

<sup>10</sup> As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'

<sup>11</sup> Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

The Gospel:

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34****Jesus Heals Many at Peter's House**

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever;

<sup>15</sup> he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him.

<sup>16</sup> That evening they brought to him many who were possessed by demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick.

<sup>17</sup> This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.'

**Jesus Heals the Gadarene Demoniacs**

<sup>28</sup> When he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs coming out of the tombs met him. They were so fierce that no one could pass that way.

<sup>29</sup> Suddenly they shouted, 'What have you to do with us, Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?'

<sup>30</sup> Now a large herd of swine was feeding at some distance from them.

<sup>31</sup> The demons begged him, 'If you cast us out, send us into the herd of swine.'

<sup>32</sup> And he said to them, 'Go!' So they came out and entered the swine; and suddenly, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and perished in the water.

<sup>33</sup> The swineherds ran off, and on going into the town, they told the whole story about what had happened to the demoniacs.

<sup>34</sup> Then the whole town came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighbourhood.

**CP 384 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation.

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:

All ye who hear,  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth  
shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:

hast thou not seen  
how thy entreaties have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:  
ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
if with his love he befriend thee.

4 Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,  
who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,  
biddeth them cease,  
turneth their fury to peace,  
whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

5 Praise to the Lord, who when darkness of sin is abounding,  
who when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,  
sheddeth his light,  
chaseth the horrors of night,  
saints with his mercy surrounding.

6 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!  
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!  
Let the Amen  
sound from his people again:  
gladly for aye we adore him.

Meditation: – Rev. Alison WesterveltCCLI 7223119 Who Else

1 I am an instrument of exaltation  
 And I was born to lift Your name above all  
 names  
 You hear the melody of all creation  
 But there's a song of praise that only I can  
 bring

2 You are the infinite God of the ages  
 Yet You chose to make my heart Your dwelling  
 place  
 You healed my brokenness showed me Your  
 glory  
 So I have songs of thanks not even angels sing

***Chorus***

***Who else is worthy who else is worthy  
 There is no one only You Jesus  
 Who else is worthy who else is worthy  
 There is no one only You Jesus***

***Bridge***

Lamb of God anointed one  
 Who was and is and is to come  
 Seated on the throne above  
 Holy holy  
 Righteous One who shed His blood  
 You proved to us the Father's love  
 Jesus Christ be lifted up  
 (Holy holy)

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.**

Healing Litany:

Let us name before God those for whom we offer 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..... Ruth..... Jody  
 and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family.....  
 Pauline.....Jorges and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie.....  
 Lynn..... Irvin and Margaret...

Let us offer our prayers for God's healing, saying, Hear and have mercy.

**Hear and have mercy**

Blessed Jesus, your Holy name is medicine for healing and a promise of eternal life

**Hear and have mercy**

Grant us your grace to heal those who are sick. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Give courage and faith to all who are disabled through injury or illness. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Comfort, relieve, and heal all sick children. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Give courage to all who await surgery. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Support and encourage those who live with chronic illness. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Strengthen those who endure continual pain and give them hope. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Grant the refreshment of peaceful sleep to all who suffer. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Uphold those who keep watch over the sick. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Guide those who search for the causes and cures of sickness and disease. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy**

Jesus, Lamb of God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**Hear and have mercy**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**Hear and have mercy**

Compassionate God, you so loved the world that you sent us Jesus to bear our infirmities and afflictions. Through acts of healing, he revealed you as the true source of health and salvation. For the sake of your Christ who suffered and died for us, conquered death, and now reigns with you in glory, hear the cry of your people. Have mercy on us, make us whole, and bring us at last into the fulness of your eternal life. Amen

Collect

God of power and mercy,  
 you call us once again  
 to celebrate the coming of your Son.  
 Remove those things which hinder love of you,  
 that when he comes,  
 he may find us waiting in awe and wonder  
 for him 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 430 Will You Come and Follow Me

1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
 Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
 Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
 will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
 Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

4. Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
 In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### The Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord, giving thanks for his living word.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**