

**A Service of Morning Prayer
Lent 4, March 18, 2026**



A portion of the painting by James Tissot, "Jesus Heals a Mute Possessed Man" 1886-96
held by the Brooklyn Museum, New York, USA

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 174 Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

1 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

2 So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living to your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God

3 If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the firstborn of the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

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 146 *Refrain: The Lord is kind and merciful.*

- ¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
² I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
³ Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.
⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.
⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,
⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever;
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;
⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

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 9:27-34

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

- ²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Son of David!'
²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said to him, 'Yes, Lord.'
²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, 'According to your faith let it be done to you.'
³⁰ And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, 'See that no one knows of this.'
³¹ But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.

Jesus Heals One Who Was Mute

³² After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him.

³³ And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, 'Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.'

³⁴ But the Pharisees said, 'By the ruler of the demons he casts out the demons.'

CP 546 God Moves in a Mysterious Way

1 God moves in a mysterious way
his wonders to perform;
he plants his footsteps in the sea
and rides upon the storm.

3 Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take,
the clouds ye so much dread
are big with mercy, and shall break
in blessings on your head.

5 His purposes will ripen fast,
unfolding every hour;
the bud may have a bitter taste,
but sweet will be the flower.

2 Deep in unfathomable mines
of never failing skill
he treasures up his bright designs
and works his sovereign will.

4 Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
but trust him for his grace;
behind a frowning providence
he hides a smiling face.

6 Blind unbelief is sure to err
and scan his work in vain;
God is his own interpreter
and he will make it plain.

Meditation: – Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 106879 Wonderful, Merciful Saviour

1 Wonderful merciful Savior
Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men
Oh You rescue the souls of men

3 Almighty infinite Father
Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne
Oh we're falling before Your throne

Chorus

***You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for
Oh our hearts always hunger for***

2 Counselor Comforter Keeper
Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts
Have hopelessly lost the way
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

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..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy.....
 Helen and family.....

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,

Befriend all who are anxious, lonely, despondent, or afraid. We pray to
 you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Restore those with mental illness to clarity of mind and hopefulness of heart.

We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Give rest to the weary and hold the dying in your loving arms. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Help us to prepare for death with confident expectation of Easter joy. We pray to you, O God,

Hear and have mercy.

Give your wisdom and compassion to health care workers, that they may minister to the sick and dying with knowledge, skill, and kindness. 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

Almighty God,
 through the waters of baptism
 your Son has made us children of light.
 May we ever walk in his light
 and show forth your glory in the world;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who is alive 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 172 Now Let Us All With One Accord

1 Now let us all with one accord,
 In company with ages past,
 Keep vigil with our heavenly Lord
 In His temptation and his fast.

2 The covenant, so long revealed
 To those of faith in former time,
 Christ by his own example sealed,
 The Lord of love, in love sublime.

3 Your love, O Lord, our sinful race
 Has not returned, but falsified.
 Author of mercy, turn your face
 And grant repentance for our pride.

4 Remember, Lord, though frail we be,
 In your own image were we made;
 Help us, lest in anxiety,
 We cause your name to be betrayed.

5 Therefore, we pray you, Lord, forgive;
 So when our wanderings here shall cease,
 We may with you forever live
 In love and unity and peace.

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.