

A Service of Morning Prayer
Wednesday, May 20, 2026, Ascension Day



Jesus addressing the people with the word of God
(illustration AI generated)

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 384 Praise to the Lord

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.

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

¹ The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

² The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

³ Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!

⁴ Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

⁵ Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.

⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸ O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹ Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.

The Gospel:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:31-36

³¹ The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all.

³² He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony.

³³ Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true.

³⁴ He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.

³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands.

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath.

CP 487 Where Charity and Love Prevail

1 Where charity and love
There God is ever found
Brought here together by Christ's love
By love we are thus bound

2 With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn
Let us with heart and mind and strength
Now love Him in return

3 Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess
Let us love each other well
In Christian holiness

4 Let strife among us be unknown
Let all contention cease
Be His the glory that we seek
Be ours His holy peace

5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells God's begotten Son;
As members of his body joined,
We are in him made one.

6 Love can exclude no race or creed
If honoured be God's name;
Our common life embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

Meditation: – Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 6399212 Oh, How Good It Is

1 Oh how good it is
 When the family of God
 Dwells together in spirit
 In faith and unity
 Where the bonds of peace
 Of acceptance and love
 Are the fruit of His presence
 Here among us

Chorus

***So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
 And with one heart we'll live out His word
 Till the whole earth sees
 The Redeemer has come
 For He dwells in the presence of His people***

2 Oh how good it is
 On this journey we share
 To rejoice with the happy
 And weep with those who mourn
 For the weak find strength
 The afflicted find grace
 When we offer the blessing
 Of belonging

Interlude Da da da

3 Oh how good it is
 To embrace His command
 To prefer one another
 Forgive as He forgives
 When we live as one
 We all share in the love
 Of the Son with the Father
 And the Spirit

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..... Pauline.....Jorges and Janine and little Emilio..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy and family..... Louise B..... Sandra A..... Melody.....
 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

Almighty God,
 your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
 that he might rule over all things as Lord.
 Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
 and in the bond of his peace,
 and bring the whole of creation
 to worship at his feet,
 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 584 The Church of Christ in Every Age

1 The church of Christ in every age,
 beset by change but Spirit led,
 must claim and test its heritage
 and keep on rising from the dead.

2 Across the world, across the street,
 the victims of injustice cry
 for shelter and for bread to eat,
 and never live until they die.

3 Then let the servant church arise,
 a caring church that longs to be
 a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
 and clothed in Christ's humanity,

4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
 can cure the fever in our blood,
 and teach us how to share our bread
 and feed the starving multitude.

5 We have no mission but to serve
 in full obedience to our Lord:
 to care for all, without reserve,
 and spread his liberating word.

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.