

## A Service of Morning Prayer

July 12, 2026



The Parable of the Sower

Dutch/Flemish painter Pieter Bruegel the Elder 1557

Putnam Foundation, Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park in San Diego, California,

*The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. Deuteronomy 30:14*

### CP 397 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light.

Praise the one who frees the prisoners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the one who preached the gospel,  
healing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.

2 Praise the one who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word.  
Praise the one who drove out demons  
with a piercing two-edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand.  
From this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in every land.

3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

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 119:105-112    Refrain: Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind.**

119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

119:106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.

119:107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word.

119:108 Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances.

119:109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

119:110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

119:111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

119:112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

**A Reading from Genesis 25:19-34**

25:19 These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac,  
25:20 and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.

25:21 Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she was barren, and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived.

25:22 The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

25:23 And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger."

25:24 When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb.

25:25 The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau.

25:26 Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

25:27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents.

25:28 Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

25:29 Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished.

25:30 Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.)

25:31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright."

25:32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?"

25:33 Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.

25:34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 259 For the Fruits of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all creation,  
 thanks be to God;  
 gifts bestowed on every nation,  
 thanks be to God.  
 For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
 silent growth while we are sleeping,  
 future needs in earth's safe keeping,  
 thanks be to God.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,  
 thanks be to God.  
 For the good we all inherit,  
 thanks be to God.  
 For the wonders that astound us,  
 for the truths that still confound us,  
 most of all that love has found us,  
 thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labour,  
 God's will is done.  
 In the help we give our neighbour,  
 God's will is done.  
 In our worldwide task of caring  
 for the hungry and despairing,  
 in the harvests we are sharing,  
 God's will is done.

A Reading from Romans 8:1-11

8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.  
 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.  
 8:3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,  
 8:4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.  
 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.  
 8:6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.  
 8:7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law--indeed, it cannot,  
 8:8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.  
 8:9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.  
 8:10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.  
 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 430 Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons)

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 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 13:1-9, 18-23

13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

13:2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

13:3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.

13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up.

13:5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

13:6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away.

13:7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

13:9 If you have ears, hear!"

13:18 "Hear, then, the parable of the sower.

13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

13:20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,

13:21 yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

13:23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Gospel of Christ

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

### CCLI 78897 The Servant King

1 From heav'n You came helpless babe  
Enter'd our world Your glory veil'd  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live

#### **Chorus**

***This is our God the Servant King  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King***

2 There in the garden of tears  
My heavy load He chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn  
Yet not my will but Yours He said

3 Come see His hands and His feet  
The scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails  
Surrendered

4 So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer  
For it is Christ we're serving

### 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 Betty Johnson**

FOR OUR INTERCESSIONS TODAY WE WILL USE LITANY # 3 which may be found on page 112 of the BAS, the green book.

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who call themselves Christians: that we may become a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to the praise of Christ Jesus our Saviour. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In the worldwide cycle of prayer, we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

In Canada, we pray for the Diocese of Algoma: the Most Rev. Anne Germond, Archbishop (Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario).

In our Diocese of Edmonton, we pray for our Bishop Stephen and the parish St. Matthew, St. Albert: Lee Bezanson, Rector; Rebecca Harris, Assistant Priest.

In the Diocese of Buye, we pray for the Gashikanwa (St. Paul) Parish: Leonidas Nizigiyimana, Rector; Pascal Ndayisenga, Vice-Rector.

We pray for All the First Nations people of Treaty 6.

We pray for our St. Peter's Family especially our ministry team Rev Arthur, Rev Alison, Rev Sandra, Emily, Jorge, our readers and intercessors, our musician Nadine, and all who work behind the scenes for all, and we ask for your blessing on our work as we seek to create a church community that welcomes the stranger, provides a welcoming place for all. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for Charles, our King for the leaders of the nations, and all in authority throughout the world; that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for this city of Edmonton and those who live here, the poor and the rich, the elderly and the young, men and women; that you will show your goodwill to all. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the victims of our society, of our weather disasters, of all the wrong doings, large or small, that are present in the world, and we pray for those who minister to them and for all who are in any need. We especially remember those for whom our prayers are requested: 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, Janine and Emilio..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Irvin and Margaret..... Ashley..... Emily..... Zaldy and family.....Sandra A..... Louise B..... Melody..... Louise A..... Justine..... Deardre..... June..... those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you alone. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of those who have died and for comfort for those who mourn. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those preparing for baptism, and for those recently baptised, that they may be strengthened in the faith. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for St. Peter and all the saints who have found favour in your sight from earliest times, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and those whose names are known to you alone: and we pray that we too may be counted among your faithful witnesses. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide us with your wisdom that justice and peace may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your LOVE through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

### Collect

Almighty God,  
you have made us for yourself,  
and our hearts are restless  
until they find their rest in you.  
May we find peace in your service,  
and in the world to come, see you face to face;  
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 425 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,  
 God of glory, Lord of love;  
 hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
 opening to the sun above.  
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
 drive the dark of doubt away;  
 giver of immortal gladness,  
 fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
 earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
 stars and angels sing around thee,  
 center of unbroken praise.  
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
 flowery meadow, flashing sea,

chanting bird and flowing fountain  
 call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
 ever blessing, ever blest,  
 well-spring of the joy of living,  
 ocean depth of happy rest!  
 Thou our Father and our Mother,  
 all who live in love are thine;  
 teach us how to love each other,  
 lift us to the joy divine.

The Dismissal

***The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your  
 heart, so that you can do it. Deuteronomy 30:14***

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.**