

**A Service of Morning Prayer
Wednesday, September 23, 2026**



“The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven will be Humble like a Child”
Engraving by French Artist Léonard Gaultier (1561-1641)
Rosenwald Collection, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC.

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 577 God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower,
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn your Christ, assail his ways.
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness. Bend our pride to your control.
Shame our wanton selfish gladness, rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal, lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places; gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christ-like graces in the fight for liberty.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail ourselves and thee, lest we fail ourselves and thee.

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 119:97-104 *Refrain: The Lord is close to all who call him.*

- ⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.
⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.
⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.
¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.
¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.
¹⁰² I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.
¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

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 18:1-5

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?'

² He called a child, whom he put among them,

³ and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

CP 505 Be Thou My Vision

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night
Waking or sleeping thy presence my light

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father; thine own may I be,
Thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 Riches I heed not, nor the world's empty
praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 High King of heaven, when victory is won;
May I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Meditation: – Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 7121852 Yet Not I, But Christ in Me

1 What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless
peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is
mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

2 The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall
overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

3 No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

4 With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall
repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall
repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

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: 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, Jorge's,
 Janine and little Emilio, Michael S, Larry, Christina, Elsie, Louise B., Irvin
 and Margaret, Ashley, Emily, Zaldy, Louise A., Sandra A., Justine, Deirdre,
 June, Fran

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,
you have created the heavens and the earth,
and ourselves in your image.
Teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving;
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 620 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 in a believer's ear!
 It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
 and drives away our fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,
 and calms the troubled breast;
 'tis manna to the hungry soul,
 and to the weary rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
 my shield and hiding place,
 my never-failing treasury, filled
 with boundless stores of grace.

4 Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
 my prophet, priest, and king,
 my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
 accept the praise I bring.

5 Weak is the effort of my heart,
 and cold my warmest thought;
 but when I see thee as thou art,
 I'll praise thee as I ought.

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.