Morning Prayer

November 18, 2026

The Gathering of the Community

Hymn – Come and Journey CP 482

Come and journey with a Savior
Who has called us from our birth,
Who has washed us in the waters,
and who loved us on the earth.

[Refrain]
Come and journey, come and journey
With a Savior who has come.
We are all God's sons and daughters.
In the Spirit we are one.
In the Spir-it we are one.

[Verse 2]
Come and journey, journey inward,
Come and seek him deep within,
Where he meets us in our living,
In our striving and our sin.

[Refrain]
[Verse 3]
Come and journey, journey outward,
Telling others of his name,
Telling others of his glory,
Of his cross and of the shame.

Introductory Responses

Your love, O God, has been poured into our hearts. We abide in you and you in us. We will give thanks to you and call upon your name; we will make known your deeds among the peoples. We raise our songs of praise to you and speak of all your marvellous works. You alone are the Holy One, who was and is and is to come!

Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Psalm

1 O God, do not remain silent;

do not turn a deaf ear,

do not stand aloof, O God.

2 See how your enemies growl,

how your foes rear their heads.

3 With cunning they conspire against your people;

they plot against those you cherish.

4 "Come," they say, "let us destroy them as a nation,

so that Israel's name is remembered no more."

5 With one mind they plot together;

they form an alliance against you—

6 the tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,

of Moab and the Hagrites,

7 Byblos, Ammon and Amalek,

Philistia, with the people of Tyre.

8 Even Assyria has joined them

to reinforce Lot's descendants. [b]

9 Do to them as you did to Midian,

as you did to Sisera and Jabin at the river Kishon,

10 who perished at Endor

and became like dung on the ground.

[11] Make their nobles like Oreb and Zeeb,

all their princes like Zebah and Zalmunna,

[12] who said, “Let us take possession

of the pasturelands of God.”

[13] Make them like tumbleweed, my God,

like chaff before the wind.

[14] As fire consumes the forest

or a flame sets the mountains ablaze,

[15] so pursue them with your tempest

and terrify them with your storm.

[16] Cover their faces with shame, Lord,

so that they will seek your name.

[17] May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;

may they perish in disgrace.

[18] Let them know that you, whose name is the Lord—

that you alone are the Most High over all the earth.

Psalm 83

The Second Reading

The Old Testament reading is from the book of Job 16:1-21

16 Then Job replied:

[2] “I have heard many things like these;

you are miserable comforters, all of you!

[3] Will your long-winded speeches never end?

What ails you that you keep on arguing?

[4] I also could speak like you,

if you were in my place;

I could make fine speeches against you
and shake my head at you.
5 But my mouth would encourage you;
comfort from my lips would bring you relief.
6 "Yet if I speak, my pain is not relieved;
and if I refrain, it does not go away.
7 Surely, God, you have worn me out;
you have devastated my entire household.
8 You have shriveled me up—and it has become a witness;
my gauntness rises up and testifies against me.
9 God assails me and tears me in his anger
and gnashes his teeth at me;
my opponent fastens on me his piercing eyes.
10 People open their mouths to jeer at me;
they strike my cheek in scorn
and unite together against me.
11 God has turned me over to the ungodly
and thrown me into the clutches of the wicked.
12 All was well with me, but he shattered me;
he seized me by the neck and crushed me.
He has made me his target;
13 his archers surround me.
Without pity, he pierces my kidneys
and spills my gall on the ground.
14 Again and again he bursts upon me;
he rushes at me like a warrior.

15 “I have sewed sackcloth over my skin
and buried my brow in the dust.
16 My face is red with weeping,
dark shadows ring my eyes;
17 yet my hands have been free of violence
and my prayer is pure.
18 “Earth, do not cover my blood;
may my cry never be laid to rest!
19 Even now my witness is in heaven;
my advocate is on high.
20 My intercessor is my friend[a]
as my eyes pour out tears to God;
21 on behalf of a man he pleads with God
as one pleads for a friend.

The Responsory

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people

and kindle in us the fire of your love.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people.

Renew the face of your creation, Creator of all, and pour on us the gifts of your Spirit,

and kindle in us the fire of your love.

For the creation waits with eager longing for the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Hymn - CP 506 Lord of All Hopefulness

1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares can destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

3 Lord of all kindliness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you
And also, with you
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Todays reading is from the 24th chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew starting at verse 45

45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour, he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Meditation

We don’t hear meditation on the Psalms like we heard today, often because we don’t know what to do with the violent nature of some of the psalms. Nonetheless, we can only assume that these psalms were meant to be heard today just as they were at the time of their writing.

This Psalm is attributed to Asaph. Asaph was a court musician appointed by King David to lead worship in the temple with his cymbals. As there are about 12 psalms attributed to Asaph, we have to conclude that he was a gifted musician, just as David was, and he excelled at writing psalms to be sung in the temple.

We can learn something else about Asaph from the content of his Psalms: He was passionate about the honour of his God. Being passionate, he was convinced that basically of the countries surrounding Israel should feel the wrath of God’s people were being besieged by them.

In Israel's bold plea for God's judgment on His foes, Israel leaves nothing to the divine imagination. The details of the punishment are specified. Let them be like the whirling dust, or as some translate it, like a tumbleweed. Let them be like the chaff driven before the wind. Let them be pursued as if by a fire sweeping through the woods and consumed as if by a raging holocaust. Let them be terrified by the Lord's storm. Let them be thoroughly put to shame so that men might seek the LORD. Let them perish in disgrace so that men might learn that Yahweh alone is the Sovereign Ruler over all the earth. Strong language? Yes, strong but not unjustified. When the honor of God is at stake, love can be firm.

These singers of the ancient people were all inspired supremely with a passion for the honor of God. With them, as with the prophets, selfish motives were unknown. Selfishness sings no song and sees no visions. On the other hand, a passion for the glory of God is capable of great sternness as well as great tenderness.

May we also be passionate about the honour God. May we speak when we see injustice in this world and may we demonstrate the love of God.

Hymn - Christ Be All Around Me

[Verse 1]
As I rise, strength of God
Go before, lift me up
As I wake, eyes of God
Look upon, be my sight

[Verse 2]
As I wait, heart of God
Satisfy and sustain

As I hear, voice of God
Lead me on, be my guide
Oh, be my guide

[Chorus]
Above and below me
Before and behind me
In every eye that sees me
Christ be all around me
Above and below me
Before and behind me
In every eye that sees me
Christ be all around me
Whoa, whoa
Christ be all around me

[Verse 3]
And as I go, hand of God
My defense, by my side
And as I rest, the breath of God
Fall upon, bring me peace
Oh, bring me peace

[Chorus]
Above and below me
Before and behind me
In every eye that sees me
Christ be all around me
Above and below me

Before and behind me
In every eye that sees me
Christ be all around me
Whoa, whoa
Christ be all around me
Whoa, whoa
Christ be all around me

[Bridge]
Your life, Your death
Your blood was shed
For every moment
Every moment
Your life, Your death
Your blood was shed
For every moment
Every moment
Your life, Your death
Your blood was shed
For every moment
Every moment
Your life, Your death
Your blood was shed
For every moment
Every moment
[Chorus]
Above and below me
Before and behind me
In every eye that sees me

Christ be all around me
Above and below me
Before and behind me
In every eye that sees me
Christ be all around me
Whoa, whoa
Christ be all around me
Whoa, whoa
Christ be all around me

The Canticle – Song of Zechariah

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, *
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets, *
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us, *
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear, *
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Prayer of the People

We arise today with the power of God to guide us,

the might of God to uphold us,

the wisdom of God to teach us,

the eye of God to watch over us,

the ear of God to hear us,

the word of God to give us speech,

the hand of God to protect us,

the way of God to direct us,

the shield of God to shelter us,

and the host of God to defend us.

Be with us, O God, as we offer our prayers to you.

Collect

Almighty God,

you sent your Son Jesus Christ

to be the light of the world.

Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us,

and bring us to eternal light and joy;

through the power of him

who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Being made one by the power of the Spirit and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn - CP 619 Fairest Lord Jesus

1 Fairest Lord Jesus,
Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish,
Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

4 Beautiful Savior!

Lord of the nations!

Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor,

Praise, adoration,

Now and forevermore be Thine!

The Sending Forth of the Community

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

May the Spirit kindle in us the fire of God's love.

Amen.