

Morning prayer

We gather in God's name

Jesus, in your mercy heal us;

in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your grace and compassion, bring mercy and forgiveness;

for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

O God, you know my foolishness

and my sins are not hidden from you:

God, forgive us.

Christ, have mercy.

Let not the flood overwhelm me

nor the depths swallow me up;

let not the pit shut its mouth upon me:

God, forgive us.

Christ, have mercy.

Hear me, O God, as your loving kindness is good;

turn to me as your compassion is great:

God, forgive us.

Christ, have mercy.

Amen.

We listen the word of God

Healing, sovereign God,
overmatch our resistant ears
with your transforming speech.
Penetrate our jadedness and fatigue.
Touch our yearnings by your words.
Through your out-loudness,
draw us closer to you.
We are ready to listen.

Walter Brueggemann in [Awed to Heaven, Rooted In Earth](#)

Psalmody

Psalm 145; adapted by Jim Cotter in [Out of the Silence... Into the Silence](#)

For the dawning of the light
For the sun at midday
For the shade of the evening
We give thanks to our God

For the rising of the moon
For the guiding stars
For the comets on cue
We give thanks to our God

For the breaking of the fast
For the noontide's refreshment
For the meal round the table
We give thanks to our God

For the greening of the woodland
For the grains of the harvest
For the fruits in their season
We give thanks to our God

For the cry of the baby
For the flowering of youth
For the strength of maturity
We give thanks to our God

For laws that protect us
For those on alert
For the routines of safety
We give thanks to our God

For the hidden who serve us
For the water and power
For work taken for granted
We give thanks to our God

For the fall of the autumn
For the quiet of winter
For the boundary of death
We give thanks to our God

For the trust of friends
For the blessings of home
For the covenants of love
We give thanks to our God

For the unfailingly generous
For the wisdom of years
For constant compassion
We give thanks to our God
Amen.

Gospel reading

Mark 8:27-38; NRSV

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

At that time: Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Jesus, in your mercy heal us;

in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your grace and compassion,
bring mercy and forgiveness;

for the beauty of heaven
may your love prepare us.

We reflect and pray

To the Good Thief

Saunders Lewis; published in [Presenting Saunders Lewis](#)

You did not see him on the mountain of Transfiguration
Nor walking the sea at night;
You never saw corpses blushing when a brier or sepulchre
Was struck by his cry.

It was in the rawness of his flesh and his dirt that you saw him,
Whipped and under thorns,
And in his nailing like a sack of bones outside the town
On a pole, like a scarecrow.

You never heard the making of the parables like a Parthenon of words,
Nor his tone when he talked of his Father,
Neither did you hear the secrets of the room above,
Nor the prayer before Cedron and the treachery.

It was in the racket of a crowd of sadists revelling in pain
And their screeches, howls, curses and shouts
That you heard the profound cry of the breaking heart of their prey:
'Why hast thou forsaken me?'

You, hanging on his right; on the left, your brother;
Writhing like skinned frogs,
Flea-bitten petty thieves thrown in as a retinue to his shame,
Courtiers to a mock king in his pain.

O master of courtesy and manners, who enlightened you
About your part in this harsh parody?
'Lord, when you come into your kingdom, remember me.' –
The kingdom that was conquered through death.

Rex Judaeorum; it was you who saw first the vain
Blasphemy as a living oracle,
You who first believed in the Latin, Hebrew, Greek,
That the gallows was the throne of God.

O thief who took paradise from the nails of a gibbet,
Foremost of the *nobilitas* of heaven,
Before the hour of death pray that it may be given to us
To perceive him and to taste him.

Silence is kept

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens:

may your glory cover the earth.

Renew your Church in holiness:

and give your people the blessings of holiness.

Let your way be known on earth:

and guide us in justice and truth.

Do not let the needy, O God, be forgotten:

nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

O God, hear our prayer:

for we put our trust in you.

As Jesus taught, we 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.**

We commend one another to God

Go before us, O God, in all our doings
with your most gracious favour,
and further us
with your continual help;
that in all our works
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy obtain the fulness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Jesus, in your mercy heal us;

in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your grace and compassion, bring mercy and forgiveness;

for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

To God be the glory:

for ever and ever. Amen.

Evening prayer

We gather in God's name

Jesus, in your mercy heal us;

in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your grace and compassion, bring mercy and forgiveness;

for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

O God, you know my foolishness
and my sins are not hidden from you:
God, forgive us.

Christ, have mercy.

Let not the flood overwhelm me
nor the depths swallow me up;
let not the pit shut its mouth upon me:
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Through your out-loudness,
draw us closer to you.
We are ready to listen.

Walter Brueggemann in [Awed to Heaven, Rooted In Earth](#)

Psalmody

Psalm 139; adapted by Jim Cotter in [Out of the Silence... Into the Silence](#)

Light of Light, you have searched me out and known me.
You know where I am and where I go,
you see my thoughts from afar.
You discern my resting places,
you are acquainted with all my ways.

**Yes, and not a word comes from my lips
but you, O God, have heard it already.
You are in front of me and you are behind me,
you have laid your hand on my shoulder.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me
So great that I cannot fathom it.**

Where shall I go from your Spirit,
where shall I flee from your presence?
If I climb to the heavens you are there,
if I descend to the depths of the earth,
you are there also.

**If I spread my wings towards the morning,
and fly to the uppermost shores of the sea,
even there your hand will lead me,
and your right hand will hold me.**

If I should cry to the darkness to cover me,
and the night to enclose me,
the darkness is no darkness to you,
and the night is as clear as the day.

**For you have created me, every part of my being,
cell and tissue, blood and bone.
You have woven me in the womb of my mother;
I will praise you, so wonderfully am I made.
Awesome are your deeds
and marvellous are your works.**

You know me to the core of my being;
nothing in me was hidden from your eyes
when I was formed in silence and secrecy,
in intricate splendour in the depths of the earth.
Even as you were forming you saw my limbs,
each part of my body shaped by your finger.

**How deep are your thoughts to me, O God;
how great is the sum of them.
Were I to count them they are more in number
than the grains of sand upon the sea-shore -
and still I would know nothing about you -
yet still would you hold me
in the palm of your hand.**

Gospel reading

John 13:1-20; NRSV

A reading from the Gospel of John.

At that time: Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, "The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me." I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.'

Jesus, in your mercy heal us;
in your love and tenderness remake us.
In your grace and compassion,
bring mercy and forgiveness;
**for the beauty of heaven
may your love prepare us.**

We reflect and pray

As for me, I love an older man

Marie-Claire Bancquart; translated by Maxianne Berger; published online by [Poetry Foundation](#)

As for me, I love an older man
who'd have remained a carpenter
without fulfilling the Scriptures.

From a plank
Jesus of the white hair
carves
with his heavy hand
a cross with several arms.

The women are marinating olives
for a birthday dinner, with the lamb
that will never be the one from the Gospels.

He is sixty-six years old, he is not the Lord
but he has taken his son's son by the hand,
and twice as old as his death,
whispers
that from this wood he's making a perch for doves.

Silence is kept

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens:

may your glory cover the earth.

Renew your Church in holiness:

and give your people the blessings of holiness.

Let your way be known on earth:

and guide us in justice and truth.

Do not let the needy, O God, be forgotten:

nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

O God, hear our prayer:

for we put our trust in you.

As Jesus taught, we 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.

We commend one another to God

Go before us, O God, in all our doings
with your most gracious favour,
and further us
with your continual help;
that in all our works
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy obtain the fulness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Jesus, in your mercy heal us;

in your love and tenderness remake us.

In your grace and compassion, bring mercy and forgiveness;

for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

To God be the glory:

for ever and ever. Amen.