

MORNING PRAYER

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Versicles

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;
in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.

My mouth is filled with Your praise,
and with Your glory all the day.

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

Tune and text: Public domain

Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-11

¹“Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Devotion

Has anyone ever said to you, “May I have a word with you?”

What kind of reaction would that statement produce in you? I suppose the reaction would depend on who speaks the statement.

Yesterday Adam committed first degree manslaughter. He ventured forth in our minivan into the mayhem that many of you experienced around 3:00pm. Driving down a steep hill his breaks locked up and he made a split-second decision-do I aim for the car in front of me, or for the ditch? Over the stop sign and into the ditch he went. It was the right decision; no one was hurt...except Rachel, our minivan. He walked home where I was waiting. “May I have a word with you?”

We called AAA and were told the first available tow would be about 5 hours out. About four hours into the wait there was a knock on the front door. Adam opened the door to a City of Bellevue police officer. After Adam identified himself the officer said, “May I have a word with you?”

This statement sent shivers down Adam’s spine twice last night. I suspect it does the same in most case for many of us. People have come to associate dire circumstances and a message of doom with the statement. When our boss, or teacher, or doctor says, “May I have a word with you?” we brace ourselves for the worst because being a sinner in this sinful, broken world means bad news is often right around the corner.

Isaiah reminded his listeners that there was bad news on the way. Sin bears consequences. That was not the only message Isaiah was commissioned to deliver. Through His prophet, God was saying, “I have a Word for you.”

This Word comes down from above like the snow we currently have outside. Our snow carries the promise to water the thirsty earth and produce what we need for life. God’s Word does the same, **It goes forth from the mouth of the Lord and shall not return to Him empty, but shall accomplish that which he purposes, and shall succeed in the thing for which He sent it (v11)**. This Word announces that **the Lord is compassionate and our God will abundantly pardon (v7)**. Isaiah reminds us of the power of God’s Word to reach into the innermost parts of our being, and call us to life and salvation in Him alone. The Word restores, renews, refreshes those who read and receive it. It speaks of a love that the slips and slides of life cannot stop.

In a world overflowing with negative words, at a time when bad news often seems to be the only news, isn’t it wonderful to hear God say, “May I have a Word with you?” and know it’s good news?

Apostles’ Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Lord’s Prayer

**C 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
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers

Prayers for others and ourselves are offered, and concluded with Luther's Morning Prayer.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go joyfully to your work.

Acknowledgments

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