

Morning Prayer

Season after Epiphany 2025

Opening Acclamation
Blessed are you, beloved our God;
In you is glory and love forever. (Jim Cotter)

Hymn of Praise

WHEN I AM AMONG THE TREES. by Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.
I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.
Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine."

Collect of the Day

As our awareness of your light grows, O God, help us to open our hearts and our lives to your presence; help us to receive insight and wisdom; help us to learn the way of love, so we may be part of the healing of the world. We pray because of Jesus, your light of love.

Amen.

Reading

Meditation

Prayers

As the days unfold, and the winter light surrounds us, we turn to you, O God, the source of life and love.

We pray for ourselves; in this challenging time, encourage us to hope, to work, to create; and help us to be kind to ourselves when we need to rest.

We pray for our neighbors: for those who are ill, we pray for accurate diagnosis, precise treatment, and compassionate care. For those whose lives are growing more limited, we pray for moments of joy. For those caring for someone they love, we pray for endurance, and a sense of your presence.

We pray for our city, county, and state governments. We pray for our natural resources, and those entrusted with their care. We pray for a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect as issues are addressed.

We pray for our nation. Remind us daily that our voices matter. Help us to stand firmly in the face of injustice; help us to find co-workers in our efforts to protect and serve the most vulnerable.

We pray for our church. We give thanks for your call to us to love and serve our neighbors as Christ. Grant us a vision of your dream for us, and grant us strength to work toward it.

We pray with great tenderness for those who have died. Sustain those who grieve. Grant to the departed your grace; may they find joy in your eternal presence.
All this we pray because of Jesus, our Healer. Amen.

Announcements

Benediction

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;
Grace to risk something big for something good; and
Grace to remember the world is now
too dangerous for anything but the truth and
too small for anything but love. - *William Sloane Coffin*

Dismissal

Let us go forth into this day, shining with the light of love. Alleluia, Alleluia!