

The office at Prime, a variation of which we use today, was one of seven, daily, "canonical hours" of prayer and devotion that made up "The Divine Office". Prime was used at the beginning of the day's work and was characterized by supplication, asking for God's help and blessing throughout the day. The reading of Psalm 119 also served to direct the soul to the eternal law of God. We follow this prayer service as we begin our day in the name of the Lord.

OUR WORSHIP TODAY -- THE OFFICE AT PRIME

OPENING VERSICLES:

L: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN: Now Thank We All Our God #895

1 Now thank we all our God
 With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
 In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
 Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
 And still is ours today.

2 Oh, may this bounteous God
 Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
 And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace

And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!
3 All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore. Public domain

PSALM 119:1-8

L: Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

C: Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. Blessed are they who keep His statutes and seek Him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in His ways. You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying Your decrees! Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all Your commands. I will praise You with an upright heart as I learn Your righteous laws. I will obey Your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:1-5 (ESV)

“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. ² Why 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. ³ Incline 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. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

EPISTLE

Romans 9:1-5 (ESV)

9 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go

into the villages and buy food for themselves.”¹⁶ But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”¹⁷ They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

RESPONSORY:

P: O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

C: O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

P: You who sits at the right hand of the Father:

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: O Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy upon us.

P: Arise, O Christ, and help us.

C: And deliver us for Your name's sake.

HYMN: Come unto Me, Ye Weary #684

1 “Come unto Me, ye weary,
 And I will give you rest.”
 O blessèd voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to hearts oppressed!
 It tells of benediction,
 Of pardon, grace, and peace,

Of joy that hath no ending,
Of love that cannot cease.

2 “Come unto Me, ye wand’rers,
 And I will give you light.”
O loving voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness,
 And we had lost our way;
But Thou hast brought us gladness
 And songs at break of day.

3 “Come unto Me, ye fainting,
 And I will give you life.”
O cheering voice of Jesus,
 Which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager,
 The fight is fierce and long;
But Thou hast made us mighty
 And stronger than the strong.

4 “And whosoever cometh,
 I will not cast him out.”
O patient love of Jesus,
 Which drives away our doubt,
Which, though we be unworthy
 Of love so great and free,
Invites us very sinners
 To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

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MEDITATION: “The Lord is a Compassionate God – Matthew 14:13-21

THE OFFERING: (Please, put your offering in the plate which is at the entrance of the church.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

THE 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.

PRAYERS:

P: I cry to You, O Lord.

C: In the morning my prayer comes before You.

P: Oh, let my mouth be filled with Your praise:

C: And with Your glory all the day.

P: Hide Your face from my sins, O Lord.

C: And blot out all my iniquities.

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

C: And put a new and right spirit within me.

P: Cast me not away from Your presence.

C: And take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

P: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation.

C: And uphold me with a willing spirit.

I confess to God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and before all the company of heaven, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through my fault, my own fault, my most grievous fault; wherefore I pray almighty God to have mercy upon me, to forgive me all my sins, and to make clean my heart within me.

P: May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance, amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Vouchsafe, O Lord:

C: To keep us this day without sin.

P: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Have mercy upon us.

P: O Lord, let Your mercy be upon us.

C: As our trust is in you.

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: And let my cry come to you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE COLLECT

P: O everlasting Jesus, who in the early morning did give Yourself to be reviled and scoffed at by Your enemies, visit us, we pray You, at this hour with Your grace and mercy that so throughout the day we may find peace and joy in all that ministers to Your praise and glory, You, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING:

P: The Lord Almighty order this day and all our doings in His peace.

C: Amen.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord:

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless us and keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us #711

1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us;
Much we need Your tender care.
In Your pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Your fold prepare.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have bought us; we are Yours.

2 We are Yours; in love befriend us,
Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Your flock, from sin defend us,
Seek us when we go astray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Hear us children when we pray.

3 You have promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us,

Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
Early let us turn to You.

4 Early let us seek Your favor,
Early let us do Your will;
Blessèd Lord and only Savior,
With Your love our spirits fill.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.
Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,
You have loved us, love us still.

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