

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: I Love Your Kingdom, Lord #651

- 1 I love Your kingdom, Lord,
The place of Your abode,
The Church our blest Redeemer saved
With His own precious blood.
- 2 Beyond my highest joy
I prize its heav'nly ways,
Its sweet communion, solemn vows,
Its hymns of love and praise.
- 3 I love Your Church, O God,
Your saints in ev'ry land,
Dear as the apple of Your eye
And graven on Your hand.
- 4 For them my tears shall fall;
For them my prayers ascend;

For them my cares and toils be giv'n
Till toils and cares shall end.

5 Sure as Your truth shall last,
To Zion shall be giv'n
The brightest glories earth can yield
And brighter bliss of heav'n.

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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 Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (ESV)

⁶ “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king

of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

EPISTLE

Romans 8:28-39 (ESV)

²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: This is the word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” 52 And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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: Be Still, My Soul #752

- 1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side;
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- 2 Be still, my soul; your God will undertake
To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- 3 Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart
And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears.
Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is hast'ning on
When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessèd we shall meet at last.

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MEDITATION: "He Gave Everything for Us" – Matthew 13:44-52

THE OFFERING HYMN: I Leave All Things to God's Direction #719

- 1 I leave all things to God's direction;
He loves me both in joy and woe.
His will is good, sure His affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is He:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 2 God knows what must be done to save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon His hands He did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 3 My God desires the soul's salvation;
My soul He, too, desires to save.
Therefore with Christian resignation
All earthly troubles I will brave.
His will be done eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 4 My God has all things in His keeping;
He is the ever faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all His ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.

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THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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: Built on the Rock #645

- 1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.
- 2 Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.
- 3 We are God's house of living stones,
Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
With all His grace and His favor.
- 4 Here stands the font before our eyes,
Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
And evermore, our Redeemer.
- 5 Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:

“I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen.”

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