

July 26, 2026 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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!

573 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee

1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could
2 It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my dark - ened
3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion; Praise the Fa - ther's
nev - er be; For this heart would still re - fuse Thee Had Thy
heart and mind; Else the world had yet en - thrall'd me, To Thy
bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion, Priest and
grace not cho - sen me. Thou hast from the sin that stained me
heav' - n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship none a - bove Thee;
King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it of sal - va - tion,
Washed and cleansed and set me free And un - to this
For Thy grace a - lone I thirst, Know - ing well that,
Him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di - vid - ed
end or - dained me, That I ev - er live to Thee.
if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.
ad - o - ra - tion To the great Je - ho - vah give.

Text: Josiah Conder, 1789–1855, alt.

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel

Text and tune: 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

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“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. ⁷It 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, ⁸but 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. ⁹Know 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.

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

Stand

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] “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, ⁴⁶who, 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. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and 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.” ⁵²And 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.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

RESPONSORY:

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

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

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

C: Have mercy upon us.

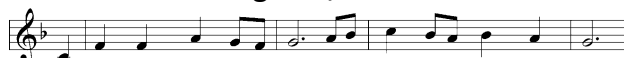
L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

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

L: Arise, O Christ, and help us.

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

651 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord



1 I love Your king - dom, Lord, The place of Your a - bode,
2 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize its heav'n - ly ways,
3 I love Your Church, O God, Your saints in ev - 'ry land,
4 For them my tears shall fall; For them my prayers as - cend;
5 Sure as Your truth shall last, To Zi - on shall be giv'n



The Church our blest Re-deem-er saved With His own pre-cious blood.
Its sweet com-mu-nion, sol-emn vows, Its hymns of love and praise.
Dear as the ap-ple of Your eye And grav-en on Your hand.
For them my cares and toils be giv'n Till toils and cares shall end.
The bright-est glo-ries earth can yield And bright-er bliss of heav'n.

Text: Timothy Dwight, 1752–1817, alt.

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON: The Priceless Treasure Matthew 13:44-52

THE OFFERING

AGPS – 255 We Give You But Your Own

1 We give you but your own

In any gifts we bring:

All that we have is yours alone,

A trust from you, our King.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.

Tune: Energy, William H Monk, 1823-89 Copyright © 1982 Concordia Publishing House

THE 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.

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:

L: I cry to You, O Lord.

C: In the morning my prayer comes before You.

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

C: And with Your glory all the day.

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

C: And blot out all my iniquities.

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

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

L: Cast me not away from Your presence.

C: And take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

L: 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.

L: 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.

L: Vouchsafe, O Lord:

C: To keep us this day without sin.

L: O Lord, have mercy upon us.

C: Have mercy upon us.

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

C: As our trust is in you.

L: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: And let my cry come to you.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each reading

L: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

THE COLLECT

L: 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:

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

C: Amen.

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

C: Who made heaven and earth.

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

C: Amen.

727 On Eagles' Wings



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, Who a -
2 snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap-ture you, And
3 You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, Nor the
4 For to His an - gels He's giv - en a com-mand To



bide in His shad - ow for life,
fam - ine will bring you no fear;
ar - row that flies by day;
guard you in all of your ways; Though
Up -



Say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, My
Un - der His wings your ref - uge, His
thou - sands fall a - bout you,
on their hands they will bear you up, Lest you



rock in whom I trust!"
faith - ful - ness your shield.
Near you it shall not come.
dash your foot a - gainst a stone.



Refrain
And He will raise you up on ea - gles' wings,



Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the



sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand. 2 The

Text and tune: Michael Joncas, 1951

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