

Morning Prayer

Thursday Liturgy¹

ADDRESS

Creator God, maker of heaven and earth,
let my soul rise up to meet you
as the day rises to meet the sun.

Glory 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.

ENCIRCLING PRAYER

Encircle me,
O Sacred Three
and guide me in your ways.

CONFESSION

Most merciful God,
we desire to follow you,
and we confess that we go astray.
Again, we choose to turn our hearts
and our lives, towards you.
Have mercy on us and forgive us;
That we might walk in your ways
in right relationship with all,
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

*In the silence, invite the Spirit to reveal where
you have missed the mark. Ask God to guide you
along the path of everlasting life.*

ABSOLUTION

Praise the LORD, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.
The LORD is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, and rich in love.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed
our transgressions from us.
Praise the LORD, my soul.

PSALM FOR THE DAY

*Pray the lectionary Psalm.**

GOSPEL READING – LECTIO DIVINA

As the lectionary Gospel passage is read for
the first time, listen with your heart for a word
or phrase that resonates with you. Do not try
to analyze the text. Simply see if something
shimmers or draws your attention. In the silence
that follows, repeat the word or phrase aloud
or silently in your heart.*

*As the passage is read a second time, see what
associations, or images, your word or phrase
evokes for you. How might these words touch
your life, or the larger world, today?*

*After the third reading, silently ask Jesus if the
word holds an invitation for you. Might you be
invited to respond inwardly or outwardly in
some way?*

ENCIRCLING PRAYER

Encircle me,
O Sacred Three
and guide me in your ways.

PSALM 91:1-2

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the LORD,
**“My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”**

* <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Painting of Arbutus trees: “Leaning into the Storm” by Gigi Hoeller

SITTING WITH JESUS

We open our lives **to you Lord**,
We make space in this day **for your coming**.
We open our heart **to your love**,
We open our ears **to your call**,
We open our eyes **to your presence**;
We open our lives **to you**.²

Let us take some time to quiet our minds and to simply sit in the presence of Jesus. Simply abide with the One who is always with you. As we sit in Jesus' presence we open ourselves to his grace. Nothing needs to "happen." Gifts from God (Jesus' felt presence, a word, image, etc.) are received not manufactured or grasped. Often, simply sitting in God's quiet presence is the gift received in this time.

PEACE PRAYER

Lord Jesus, your arms stretched out
upon the hard wood of the cross.
What was meant for evil,
God used for good, peace, and
the reconciliation of all things.
May your kingdom come.

PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth
as it is in Heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
now and forever.
Amen.

PETITION & INTERCESSION

These people and places, O Lord,
uphold and keep
wherever they are.

Take a minute to pray for whatever is on your heart. Keep prayers specific and brief.

THE BEATITUDES

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

ENCIRCLING PRAYER

Encircle me,
O Sacred Three
and guide me in your ways.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

May the work of our hands
make flesh the beatitudes,
that our life might bear witness
to God's dream for all creation.
Amen.³

¹ The overall structure of this liturgy is drawn from Brian Zahnd's Liturgy for Morning Prayer

² Adapted from a prayer by David Adam in *A Desert in the Ocean*

³ We are grateful to GraceTree: An Open Table Baptist Community for sharing their daily prayer liturgy with Cedar Park. Several lines and phrases herein reflect their words.