



## Morning Prayer Service for Lent

*Don't Be Afraid MV 90*

*Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.*

### *Announcements*

We cast our burdens upon you, O Lord, **and you will sustain us.**  
Create in us clean hearts, O God, **and renew a right spirit within us.**  
Cast us not away from your presence **and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**  
Give us the joy of your saving help again **and sustain us by your bountiful Spirit.**  
Blessed are you, O Holy One, **the God of our salvation who bears our burdens.**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy CP 606*

*There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.*

*There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.*

*Foolish hearts, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Fainting souls, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?*

*For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.*

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy, to you be praise and glory forever.

**In the darkness of our sin, your light breaks forth like the dawn and your healing springs up for deliverance.  
As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help, sustain us with your bountiful Spirit and open our lips to sing  
your praise.**

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

*Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22*

Capo 2 Am *mf* Am<sup>7</sup> Am<sup>#6</sup> Em C Am<sup>#6</sup> B

Let us praise the Ho - ly One for faith - ful love.

Give thanks to the Lord who is good,  
**and whose mercy endures for ever.**

Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim  
**that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

The Lord gathered them out of the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

Some were fools and took to rebellious ways;  
**they were afflicted because of their sins.**

They abhorred all manner of food  
**and drew near to death's door.**

Then they cried to you, O Lord, in their trouble,  
**and you delivered them from their distress.**

You sent forth your word and healed them  
**and saved them from the grave.**

Let them give thanks to you, O Lord, for your mercy  
**and the wonders you do for your children.**

Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
**and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.**

### **Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

Incline your ear to me; make haste to answer when I call.

**Incline your ear to me; make haste to answer when I call.**

Lord, hear my prayer and let my cry come before you.

**Make haste to answer when I call.**

Hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.

**Make haste to answer when I call.**

You endure forever and your name from age to age.

**Make haste to answer when I call.**

You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to have pity upon her.

**Make haste to answer when I call.**

### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

### ***A Spendthrift Love Is the Lord CP 177***

***A spendthrift lover is the Lord who never counts the cost  
or asks if heaven can afford to woo a world that's lost.  
Our lover tosses coins of gold across the midnight skies  
and stokes the sun against the cold to warm us when we rise.***

***Still more is spent in blood and tears to win the human heart,  
to overcome the violent fears that drive the world apart.***

***Behold the bruised and thorn-crowned face of one who bears our scars  
and empties out the wealth of grace that's hinted by the stars.***

***How shall we love this heart-strong God who gives us everything,  
whose ways to us are strange and odd; what can we give or bring?***

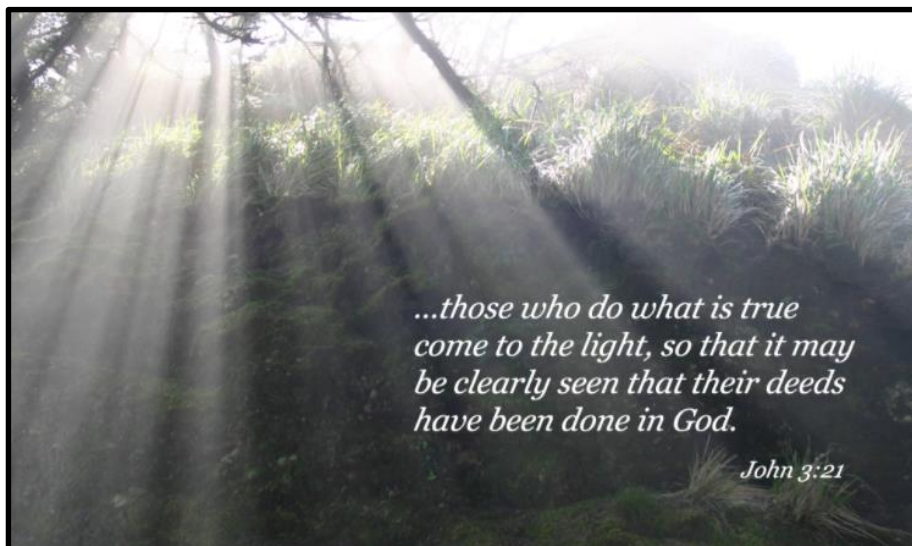
***Acceptance of the matchless gift is gift enough to give.  
The very act will shake and shift the way we love and live.***

***John 3:14-21***

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Listen for God's Word. **Our hearts are open.**

*Sermon*



Come let us return to the Lord **who has torn us and will heal us.**

God has stricken us **and will bind up our wounds.**

After two days, God will revive us,

**and on the third day will raise us up, so that we may live in the presence of the Lord.**

Let us strive to know the Lord, **whose appearing is as sure as the sunrise.**

God will come to us like the showers, **like the spring rains that water the earth.**

'O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? **How shall I deal with you, O Judah?**

'Your love for me is like the morning mist, **like the dew that goes early away.**  
Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, **and my judgement goes forth as the light.**  
For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, **and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.'**  
Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Please join me in reciting the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying, 'God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.'

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world,

**God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth,

**God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.**

For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors,

**God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.**

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples,

**God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected,

**God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.**

For all whom we have injured or offended,

**God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further your reign,

**God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.**

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- *those preparing for baptism and confirmation;*
- *those serving through leadership in church and state;*
- *those looking for forgiveness;*
- *those misled by the false gods of this present age and*
- *all who are hungry.*

God of the living, through baptism we pass from the shadow of death to the light of the resurrection. Remain with us and give us hope so that, rejoicing in the gift of the Spirit who gives life to our mortal flesh, we may be clothed with the garment of immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Let There Be Light CP 572**

***Let there be light, let there be understanding,  
let all the nations gather, let them be face to face;***

***Open our lips, open our minds to ponder,  
open the door of concord opening into grace;***

***Perish the sword, perish the angry judgement,  
perish the bombs and hunger, perish the fight for gain;***

***Hallow our love, hallow the deaths of martyrs,  
hallow their holy freedom, hallowed be thy name;***

***Thy kingdom come, thy spirit turn to language,  
thy people speak together, thy spirit never fade;***

***Let there be light, open our hearts to wonder,  
perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made.***

Trusting in the compassion of God and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Blessing*

***Spirit, Open My Heart MV 79***

***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.***

***God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender.  
all my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender.***

***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.***

***Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word and deed, may my living bring you glory.***

***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.***

*May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another.  
Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving, Spirit, open my heart.*

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. **Amen.**

Readings for next Sunday – March 21, 2021

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 51:1-13;

Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33