

AN ORDER FOR MORNING PRAISE AND PRAYER

Sunday, September 13, 2020

CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER

O Lord, open our lips.

And we shall declare your praise!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**New every morning is your love, great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the world.**

**Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our neighbors,
and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

MORNING HYMN

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.
Hallelu, Hallelujah!

GLORIA PATRI **Hymnal 70**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end, Amen. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE Acts 28:16-31

When we entered Rome, Paul was permitted to live by himself, with a soldier guarding him. ¹⁷ Three days later, Paul called the Jewish leaders together. When they gathered, he said, “Brothers, although I have done nothing against our people or the customs of our ancestors, I’m a prisoner from Jerusalem. They handed me over to the Romans, ¹⁸ who intended to release me after they examined me, because they couldn’t find any reason for putting me to death. ¹⁹ When the Jews objected, I was forced to appeal to Caesar. Don’t think I appealed to Caesar because I had any reason to bring charges against my nation. ²⁰ This is why I asked to see you and speak with you: it’s because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”

²¹ They responded, “We haven’t received any letters about you from Judea, nor have any of our brothers come and reported or said anything bad about you. ²² But we think it’s important to hear what you think, for we know that people everywhere are speaking against this faction.”

²³ On the day scheduled for this purpose, many people came to the place where he was staying. From morning until evening, he explained and testified concerning God’s kingdom and tried to convince them about Jesus through appealing to the Law from Moses and the Prophets. ²⁴ Some were persuaded by what he said, but others refused to believe. ²⁵ They disagreed with each other and were starting to leave when Paul made one more statement: “The Holy Spirit spoke correctly when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet,

²⁶ *Go to this people and say:*

You will hear, to be sure, but never understand;

and you will certainly see but never recognize what you are seeing.

²⁷ *This people’s senses have become calloused,*

and they’ve become hard of hearing,

and they’ve shut their eyes

so that they won’t see with their eyes

*or hear with their ears
or understand with their minds,
and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them.* (Isaiah 6:9-10)

²⁸ “Therefore, be certain of this: God’s salvation has been sent to the Gentiles. They will listen!”

³⁰ Paul lived in his own rented quarters for two full years and welcomed everyone who came to see him. ³¹ Unhindered and with complete confidence, he continued to preach God’s kingdom and to teach about the Lord Jesus Christ.

SILENCE

Let our prayers be acceptable to you, O God, our rock and our salvation. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each prayer, the leader may conclude: Lord, in your mercy,
and all may respond: **Hear our prayer.**

Together, let us pray
for the people of this congregation...
for those who suffer and those in trouble...
for the concerns of this local community...
for the world, its peoples, and its leaders...
for the earth you have given to our care...
for the Church universal—its leaders, its members, and its mission...
in communion with the saints...

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. Amen.**

BLESSING

**Life is short and we have too little time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,
and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with you now and always. Amen.**