

**A Service of Morning Prayer  
for September 26, 2021  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Banquet of Esther and Ahasuerus 1640's**

Painting by Jan Victors, 1619-1676, in Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister, Kassel, Germany  
from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. *John 17.17*

**CP 9 Today I Awake**

1. Today I awake and God is before me.

At night, as I dreamt, he summoned the day;  
for God never sleeps, but patterns the  
morning  
with slithers of gold or glory in grey.

2. Today I arise and Christ is beside me.

He walked through the dark to scatter new  
light.

Yes, Christ is alive, and beckons his people  
to hope and to heal, resist and invite.

3. Today I affirm the spirit within me

at worship and work, in struggle and rest.

The Spirit inspires all life which is changing  
from fearing to faith, from broken to blest.

4. Today I enjoy the Trinity round me,

above and beneath, before and behind;

the Maker, the Son, the Spirit together

they called me to life and call me their friend.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.

**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,

**To you all hearts are open,**

**All desires known,**

**And from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
That we may perfectly love you,  
And worthily magnify your holy name;  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord is our refuge and strength: O come, let us worship.

**Psalm 124** *Refrain:* Hide not your face from me, O Lord.

124:1 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side -- let Israel now say --  
124:2 if it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,  
124:3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled  
against us;  
124:4 then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us;  
124:5 then over us would have gone the raging waters.  
124:6 Blessed be the LORD, who has not given us as prey to their teeth.  
124:7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.  
124:8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

**A Reading from Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22**

7:1 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther.  
7:2 On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled."  
7:3 Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me -- that is my petition -- and the lives of my people -- that is my request.  
7:4 For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king."  
7:5 Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?"  
7:6 Esther said, "A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!" Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.  
7:9 Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, "Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high." And the king said, "Hang him on that."  
7:10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.  
9:20 Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far,  
9:21 enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,

9:22 as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CP 463 A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar**

1. A prophet-woman broke a jar  
by Love's divine appointing.  
With rare perfume she filled the room,  
presiding and anointing.  
A prophet-woman broke a jar,  
the sneers of scorn defying.  
With rare perfume she filled the room,  
preparing Christ for dying.

2. A faithful woman left a tomb  
by Love's divine commission.  
She saw, she heard, she preached the word,  
arising from submission.  
A faithful woman left a tomb,  
with resurrection gospel.  
She saw, she heard, she preached the word,  
apostle to apostles.

3. Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth,  
for centuries were hidden,  
unsung, unwritten, and unheard,  
derided and forbidden,  
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,  
on free and slave descending,  
can tumble our dividing walls,  
our shame and sadness mending.

4. The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,  
by Love's divine ordaining,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead,  
their powers and gifts unchaining.  
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,  
from women, men and children,  
the friends we need, to serve and lead.  
Rejoice, and make them welcome!

**A Reading from James 5:13-20**

5:13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

5:14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

5:15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

5:16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

5:17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

5:18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

5:19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,

5:20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**CP 292 We Cannot Measure How You Heal**

1. We cannot measure how you heal  
 Or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
 Yet we believe your grace responds  
 Where faith and doubt unite to care.  
 Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
 Survive to hold and heal and warn,  
 To carry all through death to life  
 And cradle children yet unborn.

2. The pain that will not go away,  
 The guilt that clings from things long past,  
 The fear of what the future holds,  
 Are present as if meant to last.  
 But present too is love which tends  
 The hurt we never hope to find,  
 The private agonies inside,  
 The memories that haunt the mind.

3. So some have come who need your help  
 And some have come to make amends,  
 As hands which shaped and saved the world  
 Are present in the touch of friends.  
 Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
 To mend the body, mind, and soul,  
 To disentangle peace from pain  
 And make your broken people whole.

**The Gospel**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Mark 9:38-50**

9:38 John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us."

9:39 But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

9:40 Whoever is not against us is for us.

9:41 For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

9:42 "If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea.

9:43 If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

9:45 And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell.

9:47 And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell,

9:48 where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

9:49 "For everyone will be salted with fire.

9:50 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The Gospel of Christ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt**CCLI 7025522 Trust in You**

1. Letting go of every single dream  
I lay each one down at Your feet  
Every moment of my wondering  
Never changes what You see

2. I've tried to win this war I confess  
My hands are weary I need Your rest  
Mighty warrior King of the fight  
No matter what I face You're by my side

***Chorus***

***When You don't move the mountains  
I'm needing You to move***

***When You don't part the waters  
I wish I could walk through***

***When You don't give the answers  
As I cry out to You***

***I will trust I will trust***

***I will trust in You***

3. Truth is You know what tomorrow brings  
There's not a day ahead You have not seen  
So in all things be my life and breath  
I want what You want Lord and nothing less

***Chorus...*****Bridge**

You are my strength and comfort  
You are my steady hand  
You are my firm foundation  
The Rock on which I stand  
Your ways are always higher  
Your plans are always good  
There's not a place where I'll go  
You've not already stood

***Chorus...***Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He 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.  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
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.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by Beth-Anne Exham

For our intercessions today we will use litany # 2 on page 112

Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, "Lord hear our Prayer." **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Episcopal Church in the whole World

In Canada for the Diocese of Moosonee: the Most Rev. Anne Germond, Archbishop and Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario; and the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Assistant Bishop.

In our Diocese we pray for Stephen our Bishop and for the clergy on a leave of absence, and the Interim Ministry Team, and for our St. Peter's family, especially our clergy Heather and Alison, for those who bring us our Services on Zoom each week, especially for Nadine and her music ministry, for those who spend their time making sure the parish and building continue to function, and for those who do not hear their name here but are precious because they are members of the family.

In the Diocese of Buye for Murehe Parish: Alexis Nzoyisaba, Rector.

We pray for the people of the Enoch Cree Nation.

O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of UNITY, SERVICE AND PRAISE.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Queen and all in the world who are in authority. We ask that they will listen for Your Spirit to guide them in their decisions. Give to all nations an awareness of the UNITY of the human family.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Cleanse our hearts of prejudice, racism, and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind especially during these times of great illness. We pray for those for whom our prayers are requested : Sandra, Merle, Mona, Lois W., Ray and Mary, Irene, Joyce, Kathryn, Helen, Jenifer, Judy, Tony and Mary Jean, Luisa, Lois D., Stacey, Marguerite,

Evelyn and Willis, Miranda, Iain, Diane and Bill, for Maxine, and for all connected to the Westglen School which has closed because of a Covid outbreak.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Set free, particularly during this Pandemic, all who are bound by fear and despair.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant the repose of the soul of those who have died, especially Sandy James, a peaceful end and eternal rest to those who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the PEACE AND UNITY of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Compassionate Father, it has been a long while since we have been able to gather as one body in your presence to worship you in fellowship and community. We long for the time that we can gather again in our beloved St. Peter's and experience the joy and fellowship of shared worship in a shared space. We ask for trust and for patience, not only for ourselves, but for all worshipping communities, so that when the time is right, we can open our doors and once again, carefully and with the safety of all in our minds and hearts, come together again in love and fellowship.

Until that time, we thank you for the many opportunities you have granted us to worship in different ways and we ask that you make us always mindful that in the Church building is not the only place where worship happens but that the Church lives in us as you live in us. Amen.

### Collect

Grant, O merciful God,  
that your Church,  
being gathered by your Holy Spirit into one,  
may show forth your power among all peoples,  
to the glory of your name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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,  
 the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **CP 502 You are Salt for the Earth**

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:  
 Salt for the kingdom of God!  
 Share the flavour of life, O people:  
 Life in the kingdom of God!

#### ***Refrain***

***Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,  
 Bring forth the kingdom of peace;  
 Bring forth the kingdom of justice,  
 Bring forth the city of God.***

2. You are a light on the hill, O people:  
 Light for the city of God!  
 Shine so holy and bring O people:  
 Shine for the kingdom of God!

#### ***Refrain...***

3. You are a seed of the Word, O people:  
 Bring forth the kingdom of God!  
 Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice  
 Grow in the Kingdom of God!

#### ***Refrain...***

4. We are a blest and a pilgrim people:  
 Bound for the kingdom of God!  
 Love our journey and love our homeland:  
 Love is the Kingdom of God!

#### ***Refrain...***

### **The Dismissal**

Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. *John 17.17*

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

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness  
 working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory  
 for ever and ever, Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**