

**A Service of Morning Prayer  
Wednesday, March 22, 2023  
Lent 4**



**The Miracle of Christ Healing the Blind Man  
by El Greco (1541-1614) about 1570  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York**

Welcome:

CP 560 God Whose Almighty Word

1 God whose almighty Word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

2 Saviour, who came to bring  
on your redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind:  
now for all humankind  
let there be light!

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
lifegiving, holy Dove,  
speed on your flight!  
Move on the water's face  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light!

4 Gracious and holy Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
wisdom, love, might,  
boundless as ocean's tide  
rolling in fullest pride:  
through the world far and wide  
let there be light!

Gathering: 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.**

Trisagion: Holy God,  
 Holy and mighty,  
 Holy and immortal one,  
 Have mercy on us. (3x)

Psalm 119:121-144

<sup>121</sup> I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors.  
<sup>122</sup> Guarantee your servant's well-being; do not let the godless oppress me.  
<sup>123</sup> My eyes fail from watching for your salvation, and for the fulfilment of your righteous promise.  
<sup>124</sup> Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes.  
<sup>125</sup> I am your servant; give me understanding, so that I may know your decrees.  
<sup>126</sup> It is time for the Lord to act, for your law has been broken.  
<sup>127</sup> Truly I love your commandments more than gold, more than fine gold.  
<sup>128</sup> Truly I direct my steps by all your precepts; I hate every false way.  
<sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.  
<sup>130</sup> The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.  
<sup>131</sup> With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.  
<sup>132</sup> Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom towards those who love your name.  
<sup>133</sup> Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.  
<sup>134</sup> Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.  
<sup>135</sup> Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.  
<sup>136</sup> My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.  
<sup>137</sup> You are righteous, O Lord, and your judgements are right.  
<sup>138</sup> You have appointed your decrees in righteousness and in all faithfulness.  
<sup>139</sup> My zeal consumes me because my foes forget your words.  
<sup>140</sup> Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it.  
<sup>141</sup> I am small and despised, yet I do not forget your precepts.  
<sup>142</sup> Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and your law is the

truth.

<sup>143</sup> Trouble and anguish have come upon me, but your commandments are my delight.

<sup>144</sup> Your decrees are righteous for ever; give me understanding that I may live.

### 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 8:11-26

<sup>11</sup> The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him.

<sup>12</sup> And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, 'Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.'

<sup>13</sup> And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side.

<sup>14</sup> Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat.

<sup>15</sup> And he cautioned them, saying, 'Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.'

<sup>16</sup> They said to one another, 'It is because we have no bread.'

<sup>17</sup> And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, 'Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened?

<sup>18</sup> Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember?

<sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?' They said to him, 'Twelve.'

<sup>20</sup> 'And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?' And they said to him, 'Seven.'

<sup>21</sup> Then he said to them, 'Do you not yet understand?'

<sup>22</sup> They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him.

<sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, 'Can you see anything?'

<sup>24</sup> And the man looked up and said, 'I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.'

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.

<sup>26</sup> Then he sent him away to his home, saying, 'Do not even go into the village.'

CP 384 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King  
of creation.

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health  
and salvation:

All ye who hear,  
brothers and sisters draw near,  
praise him in glad adoration.

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so  
wondrously reigneth

shelters thee under his wings, yea, so  
gently sustaineth:

hast thou not see  
how thy entreaties have been  
granted in what he ordaineth?

3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy  
work and defend thee;

surely his goodness and mercy here daily  
attend thee:

ponder anew  
what the Almighty can do,  
if with his love he befriend thee.

4 Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests  
their warfare are waging,

who, when the elements madly around  
thee are raging,

biddeth them cease,  
turneth their fury to peace,  
whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

5 Praise to the Lord, who when darkness  
of sin is abounding,

who when the godless do triumph, all virtue  
confounding,

sheddeth his light,  
chaseth the horrors of night,  
saints with his mercy surrounding.

6 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me  
adore him!

All that hath life and breath come now with  
praises before him!

Let the Amen  
sound from his people again:  
gladly for aye we adore him.

Meditation: – Rev. Alison WesterveltCCLI 5925687 Lord, I Need You

1 Lord I come I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
And without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

**Chorus 1**

**Lord I need You oh I need You**

**Ev'ry hour I need You**

**My one defense my righteousness**

**Oh God how I need You**

2 Where sin runs deep Your grace is more

Where grace is found is where You are

And where You are Lord I am free

Holiness is Christ in me

Where You are Lord I am free

Holiness is Christ in me

**Bridge**

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay

**Chorus 2**

**Lord I need You oh I need You**

**Ev'ry hour I need You**

**My one defense my righteousness**

**Oh God how I need You**

**My one defense my righteousness**

**Oh God how I need You**

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.**

Healing Litany:

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers: Sandra, Merle, Mary, Irene, Helen, Tony and Mary Jean, Bill, Geraldine, Florence, Joan, Shirley and Cyril, Lisa, Marijke, Christie, Cathy and family, Diane, Janelle, Rosemary, Roald, Sandy, Luci,

Let us offer our prayers for God's healing, saying, Hear and have mercy.

**Hear and have mercy**

Blessed Jesus, your Holy name is medicine for healing and a promise of eternal life

**Hear and have mercy**

Grant us your grace to heal those who are sick. We pray to you, O God, Befriend all who are anxious, lonely, despondent, or afraid. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Restore those with mental illness to clarity of mind and hopefulness of heart. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Give rest to the weary and hold the dying in your loving arms. We pray to you,  
O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Help us to prepare for death with confident expectation of Easter joy. We pray  
to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Give your wisdom and compassion to health care workers, that they may  
minister to the sick and dying with knowledge, skill, and kindness. We pray to  
you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Uphold those who keep watch over the sick. We pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Guide those who search for the causes and cures of sickness and disease. We  
pray to you, O God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Jesus, Lamb of God,

**Hear and have mercy.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**Hear and have mercy**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**Hear and have mercy**

Compassionate God, you so loved the world that you sent us Jesus to bear our  
infirmities and afflictions. Through acts of healing, he revealed you as the true  
source of health and salvation. For the sake of your Christ who suffered and  
died for us, conquered death, and now reigns with you in glory, hear the cry of  
your people. Have mercy on us, make us whole, and bring us at last into the  
fulness of your eternal life. Amen

Collect

Almighty God,  
through the waters of baptism  
your Son has made us children of light.  
May we ever walk in his light  
and show forth your glory in the world;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

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 341 God of Mercy, God of Grace

1 God of mercy, God of grace,  
 show the brightness of your face;  
 shine upon us, Saviour, shine;  
 fill your church with light divine;  
 and your saving health extend  
 unto earth's remotest end.

2 Let the people praise you, Lord;  
 be by all that live adored;  
 let the nations shout and sing  
 glory to their Saviour King;  
 at your feet their tribute pay,  
 and your holy will obey.

3 Let the people praise you, Lord;  
 earth shall then its fruits afford,  
 God to us all blessings give,  
 we to God devoted live;  
 all below and all above  
 one in joy and light and love.

The Dismissal:

Let us bless the Lord, giving thanks for his living word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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