

**A Service of Morning Prayer
March 5, 2023
Second Sunday of Lent**



**Christ Instructing Nicodemus
by Jacob Jordaens, 1593-1678**

from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

The Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. *John 3.14–15*

CP 468 To Abraham and Sarah

1 To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear;
“Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word
That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

2 From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,
dependent for their journey on God’s abundant grace;
and in their heart was written by God this saving word,
“That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

3 We of this generation on whom God’s hand is laid
can journey to the future secure and unafraid,
rejoicing in God’s goodness and trusting in this word,
That you shall be my people and I will be your God.”

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.

Psalm 121 *Refrain:* Let your loving-kindness be upon us, O Lord.

121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills-- from where will my help come?

121:2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

121:3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

121:4 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

121:5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

121:6 The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

121:7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

121:8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

A Reading from Genesis 12:1-4a

12:1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.

12:2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

12:3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

12:4a So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 529 God, My Hope on You is Founded

1 God, my hope on you is founded,
you my faith and trust renew;
through all change and chance you guide me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, you alone
call my heart to be your own.

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown, betray our trust;
though with care and toil we build them,
tower and temple fall to dust.
but your power, hour by hour
is my temple and my tower.

3 Daily does the almighty Giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
God's desire for us delights us
pleasure leads us where we go.
Here at hand, love takes stand,,
joy awaits God's sure command.

4 God's great goodness lasts forever,
deepest wisdom, passing thought;
splendour, light, and life attending,
beauty springing our of naught.
Evermore from God's store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ the Son.
Christ, you call one and all;
those who follow shall not fall.

A Reading from Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

4:1 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

4:2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

4:3 For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

4:4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due.

4:5 But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

4:13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

4:14 If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

4:15 For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

4:16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us,

4:17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") -- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 524 O Christ the Great Foundation

1 O Christ the great foundation
on which your people stand
to preach your true salvation
in every age and land:
pour out your Holy Spirit
to make us strong and pure,
to keep the faith unbroken
as long as worlds endure.

2 Baptized in one confession,
one church in all the earth,
we bear our Lord's impression,
the sign of second birth:
one holy people gather
in love beyond our own
by grace we were invited,
by grace we make you known.

3 Where tyrants' hold is tightened,
where strong devour the weak,
where innocents are frightened
and righteous fear to speak,
there let your church awaking
attack the powers of sin
and, all their ramparts breaking,
with you the victory win.

4 This is the moment glorious when he,
who once was dead,
Shall lead his church victorious,
their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation
his heavenly kingdom brings:
The final consummation,
the glory of all things.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 3:1-17

3:1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

3:2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God."

3:3 Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."

3:4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

3:5 Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

3:6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.

3:7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.'

3:8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

3:9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

3:10 Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

3:11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony.

3:12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

3:13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

3:15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

3:16 "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.

3:17 "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.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

CCLI 6460237 God With Us

1 Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love
To be nearer to us
You've come to bring life to be Light
To shine brighter in us
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Chorus
Our Deliverer You are Savior
In Your presence we find our strength
Over ev'rything our Redemption
God with us
You are God with us

2 Oh You've come to be Hope to this world
For Your honor and name
And You've come to take sin to bear shame
And to conquer the grave
Oh Emmanuel God with us

Bridge
You are here
You are holy
We are standing in Your glory (Lord)
(REPEAT)

Ending
Oh God with us
You are God with us

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 Betty Johnson

TODAY WE WILL USE LITANY NO. 14 found on Page 121 of the Book of Alternative Services. (The green book) With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, Lord, have mercy.

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

In the worldwide cycle of prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of South East Asia.

In Canada, we pray for the Diocese of Saskatchewan: the Rt. Rev. Michael Hawkins, Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett, Bishop of Missinipi; the Rt. Rev. Isaiah Larry Beardy, Assisting Bishop of Missinipi.

In our Diocese, we pray for the parish of St. Andrew, Camrose: Trina Holmberg, Rector; Daryle Kerr, Honorary Assistant; Bev Shafer, Secretary.

In the Buyé Diocese, we pray for the Nyamabuye Parish: Serges Rwaswa, Rector.

We pray for the people of the Enoch Cree Nation.

We pray for Stephen, our Bishop, and we pray for our parish of St. Peter's, our clergy, Alison, our music ministry Nadine, our visiting priest, Rebecca, our wardens and volunteers. We pray for our meeting as we look forward to our future.

We pray for those affected by war and disasters, especially in the Ukraine. Turkey, and Syria.

For these and others, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness the Church may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all in authority throughout the world that there may be peace in the world, and that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; and everyone in need; and especially for those for whom our prayers are requested: Sandra... Merle..... Mary..... Irene Helen.....Tony and Mary Jean..... Bill..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle..... Rosemary..... Roald..... Sandy..... Luci; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peaceful repose of the souls of those who have died and for comfort for those who mourn, we pray to you Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Collect

Almighty God,
 whose Son was revealed in majesty
 before he suffered death upon the cross,
 give us faith to perceive his glory,
 that being strengthened by his grace
 we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
 who lives 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 565 Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
 I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
 Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
 feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow;
 let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
 Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield,
 be thou still my strength and shield.

3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
 death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee,
 I will ever give to thee.

The Dismissal

The Son of man must be lifted up, that whoever believes
in him may have eternal life. *John 3.14–15*

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.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.