

WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER

Season after Pentecost

September 3, 2025



OPENING SENTENCES

One: O Lord, open my lips,

All: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. (Ps. 51:15)

One: The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
and your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;

**All: for who in the skies can be compared to the Lord?
Who is like the Lord among the gods?**

One: A God who is feared in the council of the holy ones,
great and awesome to those all around.

**All: Who is like you, Lord God of hosts?
O mighty Lord, your faithfulness is all around you.** (Ps. 89:5-8)

OPENING PRAYER

(...now and forever. Amen.)

PSALM 63 (read in unison)

*O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

*Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.*

*For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.*

So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

*My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.*

For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

*My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

*May those who seek my life to destroy it go down into the depths of the earth;
let them be thrown upon the edge of the sword, and let them be food for jackals.*

*But the king will rejoice in God;
all those who swear by God's name will be glad;
for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.*

SCRIPTURE READING:

James 3:1-12

One: ...The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)

SCRIPTURE READING:

Mark 15:1-11

One: ...The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

(A period of silence follows for personal reflection.)

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

One: Let us pray...

Lord Jesus Christ, greater than all things, greater than every thought of you,
come, hear our prayer.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: O Christ the Healer, by your wounds others are made whole, by your tears sorrow is washed away,
come with kindness to those who today need your touch, your time,
or who need to know that you remember them.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: O Christ the Feeder, you ask for what we have in order to nourish those we tend to forget.
Where people hunger, in or out of our view, direct not just the pity of our eyes,
but our generosity even if it hurts.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: O Christ the Peacemaker, stubbornness condemns us,
unsure as we are to walk the road that leads to peace.
Show us, whose science is set to militarize the galaxy,
the simpler, humbler and yet more difficult path
by which our warfare may be turned to welfare.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: O Christ the Liberator, the chains of death and hell could not hold you,
yet imperialism, racism, sexism and a thousand other "isms" ensnare your people.
Where humanity cries out against inhumanity and where nature mourns for its good,
deliver all from evil.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: O Christ the Stranger, you meet us when we are not ready for you;
you stand or sit with those we avoid;
you knock on the door we are hesitant to open;
you say the word we are reluctant to hear.

Come, where you are kept at arm's length
and take the hand that needs to hold you.

Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

One: Lord Jesus Christ,
we believe that you are God;
we believe that you are true to your promise to answer the prayers of your people;

**All: In us, through us, and, if need be, despite us,
let the fabric of the world be transformed into the shape of your kingdom
for your name's sake. Amen.**

(other prayers and petitions...)

One: Now, grateful that we are free to unite in prayer,
we pray in words Jesus taught his friends:

**All: 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;
and 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 forever. Amen.**

CLOSING RESPONSES AND PRAYER OF BLESSING

One: May the everlasting God shield you where you go.
And the blessing of God be upon you

All: the blessing of the Giver of life.

One: The blessing of God be upon you

All: the blessing of the Christ of love.

One: The blessing of God be upon you

All: the blessing of the Spirit of peace.

One: The blessing of the Trinity be upon you now and evermore.

All: Amen.

One: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

One: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

All: And also with you.

(Signs and words of Christ's peace may be exchanged by all.)



Liturgical materials adapted from the following sources:

~ *Present on Earth: Worship Resources on the Life of Jesus* Copyright 2002 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G23DH, Scotland

~ Iona Abbey Worship Book, 2017

~ The psalm text comes from the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox, 2018), in an inclusive/expansive language version first published in Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress, 2006) and shared with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and other ecumenical partners.