**Daily Prayer, Thursday, January 7, 2021**

We remember the Lekwungen speaking people who have lived on this land for countless generations and pray for their well-being, healing and flourishing in this new year.

*Opening Prayer:*

Holy One

As we open ourselves to you in prayer this day

Give us awareness of how complete and abundant your love for us is.

Thank you for your endless care and for the great gift

Of Jesus, the revelation of your incarnate presence with us

We pray within Emmanuel

Amen

**Psalm 103**

**1**Praise the Lord, my soul;
    all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
**2**Praise the Lord, my soul,
    and forget not all his benefits—
**3**who forgives all your sins
    and heals all your diseases,
**4**who redeems your life from the pit
    and crowns you with love and compassion,
**5**who satisfies your desires with good things
    so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

**6**The Lord works righteousness
    and justice for all the oppressed.

**8**The Lord is compassionate and gracious,
    slow to anger, abounding in love.
**11**For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
    so great is his love for those who revere him;
**12**as far as the east is from the west,
    so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

**13**As a father has compassion on his children,
    so the Lord has compassion on those who honour him;
**14**for he knows how we are formed,
    he remembers that we are dust.
**15**The life of mortals is like grass,
    they flourish like a flower of the field;
**16**the wind blows over it and it is gone,
    and its place remembers it no more.
**17**But from everlasting to everlasting
    the Lord’s love is with those who worship him,
Praise the Lord, my soul.

# **John 2:1-11**

**2**On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus’ mother was there, **2**and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. **3**When the wine was gone, Jesus’ mother said to him, “They have no more wine.”

**4**“Woman,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%202%3A1-11&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-26100a" \o "See footnote a)] why do you involve me?” Jesus replied. “My hour has not yet come.”

**5**His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.”

**6**Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%202%3A1-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26102b)]

**7**Jesus said to the servants, “Fill the jars with water”; so they filled them to the brim.

**8**Then he told them, “Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.”

They did so, **9**and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside **10**and said, “Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.”

**11**What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

*Prayers of Petition and Thanksgiving*

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.

*For Courage*

When the light around lessens

And your thoughts darken until

Your body feels fear turn

Cold as a stone inside,

When you find yourself bereft

Of any belief in yourself

And all you unknowingly

Leaned on has fallen,

When one voice commands

Your whole heart,

And it is raven dark,

Steady yourself and see

That it is your own thinking

That darkens your world.

Search and you will find

A diamond-thought of light,

Know that you are not alone,

And that this darkness has purpose;

Gradually it will school your eyes,

To find the one gift your life requires

Hidden within this night-corner.

Invoke the learning

Of every suffering

You have suffered.

Close your eyes

Gather all the kindling

About your heart

To create one spark

That is all you need

To nourish the flame

That will cleanse the dark

Of its weight of festered fear.

A new confidence will come alive

To urge you towards higher ground

Where your imagination

Will learn to engage difficulty

As its most rewarding threshold!

John O’Donohue

*Closing Prayer:*

St Patrick’s Breastplate

I arise today, through
The strength of heaven,
The light of the sun,
The radiance of the moon,
The splendor of fire,
The speed of lightning,
The swiftness of wind,
The depth of the sea,
The stability of the earth,
The firmness of rock.
I arise today, through
God's strength to pilot me,
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's hand to guard me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's host to save me

Christ with me,
Christ before me,
Christ behind me,
Christ in me.
I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
of the Creator of creation.