

Noon Prayer
January 12, 2023

Welcome

Prelude

Dialogue

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples,

But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world

A light no darkness can overcome.

May Jesus light our path

And show us the way of peace and love.

Mid-Day Prayer

Holy God, you are our strength and our redeemer. By your Spirit hold us safely together, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world. Amen.

Psalms 40

¹I waited patiently for the LORD;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the desolate pit,

out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure.

³He put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear,

and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴Blessed are those who make

the LORD their trust,

who do not turn to the proud,

to those who go astray after false gods.

⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God,

your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;

none can compare with you.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,

they would be more than can be counted.

⁶Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,

but you have given me an open ear.

Burnt offering and sin offering

you have not required.

⁷Then I said, "Here I am;

in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

⁸I delight to do your will, O my God;
your law is within my heart."

⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;
see, I have not restrained my lips,
as you know, O LORD.

¹⁰I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness
from the great congregation.

¹¹Do not, O LORD, withhold
your mercy from me;
let your steadfast love and your faithfulness
keep me safe forever.

¹²For evils have encompassed me
without number;
my iniquities have overtaken me,
until I cannot see;
they are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails me.

¹³Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.

¹⁴Let all those be put to shame and confusion
who seek to snatch away my life;
let those be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire my hurt.

¹⁵Let those be appalled because of their shame
who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

¹⁶But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who love your salvation
say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

¹⁷As for me, I am poor and needy,
but the LORD takes thought for me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
do not delay, O my God.

Gloria Patri

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning
is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

First Reading I Corinthians 1:1-9

¹Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother
Sosthenes, ²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ
Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the
grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been

enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — ⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — ⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Reading

The kingdom belongs to people who aren't trying to look good or to impress anybody, even themselves. They are not plotting how they can call attention to themselves, worrying about how their actions will be interpreted or wondering if they will get gold stars for their behavior. Twenty centuries later, Jesus speaks pointedly to the preening ascetic trapped in the fatal narcissism of spiritual perfectionism, to those of us caught up in boasting about our victories in the vineyard, to those of us fretting and flapping about our human weaknesses and character defects. The child doesn't have to struggle to get himself in a good position for having a relationship with God; he doesn't have to craft ingenious ways of explaining his position to Jesus; he doesn't have to create a pretty face for himself; he doesn't have to achieve any state of spiritual feeling or intellectual understanding. All he has to do is happily accept the cookies, the gift of the kingdom.

Brennan Manning, *The Ragmuffin Gospel*

Reflection

The Benedictus

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Prayer

Let us pray.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you –

for the sustaining goodness of your creation ...

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness ...

for the gifts of relationship with others ...

for the communion of faith in your church ...

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray –

for those who govern nations of the world ...

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare ...

for all who work for peace and international harmony ...

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction ...

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land ...

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The vitality of God be mine this day
the vitality of the God of life.

The passion of Christ be mine this day
the passion of the Christ of love.

The wakefulness of the Spirit be mine this day
the wakefulness of the Spirit of justice.

The vitality and passion and wakefulness of God be mine
that I may be fully alive this day
the vitality and passion and wakefulness of God
that I may be fully alive.

Celtic Benediction, J Philip Newell

And may the blessing of God who is Father, +Son and Holy Spirit
be upon us now and forever. Amen.