

Lenten Midday Prayer – March 9, 2022

I Am the Light of the World

Preparation

L: We cast our burdens upon you, O Lord,

C: and you will sustain us.

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

C: and renew a right spirit within us.

L: Cast us not away from your presence

C: and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

L: Give us the joy of your saving help again

C: and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

L: Blessed are you, O Lord, day by day,

C: the God of our salvation who bears our burdens.

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and ever shall be,

world without end.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

John 8:2-20

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.']] Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' Then the Pharisees said to him, 'You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid.' Jesus answered, 'Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgement is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf.' Then they said to him, 'Where is your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.' He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

Prayers

Returning to the Lord, our God, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Anoint your church, O God, so that as children of light we shine brightly in a world that longs to know you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Restore the green pastures and still waters of this earth and lead us to be responsible stewards of all that you have created. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherd all peoples. Break the barriers of hatred and prejudice between those of different races, faiths, genders, age, ability, and sexual orientation, that we live peaceable together. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring goodness and mercy to all who suffer that they not want for anything. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be present in this assembly and open our eyes so that we look, not on outward appearance, but upon one another's hearts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have prepared a table for all who believe in you. We give you thanks for all our brothers and sisters in Christ who now dwell in your house forever. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us,

**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.
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 Prayer

L: Let us pray. God of power and love look kindly on the tasks we have begun,
and at this midday hour renew your grace within us: make good our defects,
and bring our work to that fulfilment which accords with your will. Through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Please share a wave of peace with each other.

Benediction