



**Morning Prayer**  
**Wednesday January 27, 2021**  
**10 am on Zoom**  
**Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle**  
**[transferred]**

- 10 *Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*
- 11 *Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.*

-Psalm 85:10-11

**Opening Sentence**

It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. [Isaiah 60:3]

**The Confession**

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

O Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your purpose. Give us the courage to act according to your purpose. Give us the devotion to love your purpose. In the name and spirit of Jesus we pray.

**Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

In the morning light, O God, may I glimpse again your image deep with me, the threads of eternal glory woven into the fabric of every man and woman. May I catch sight of the mystery of the human soul fashioned in your likeness deeper than knowing, more enduring than time. And in glimpsing these threads of light amidst the weakness and distortion of my life, let me

be recalled to the strength and beauty deep in my soul. Let me be recalled to the strength and beauty of your image in every living soul. **Amen.**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

The Lord has shown forth his glory: come let us adore him.

### **Invitatory Psalm 100      *Jubilate***

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \* he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

### **Psalm 67**

1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

2 Let your ways be known upon earth, \* your saving health among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \* let all the peoples praise you.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; \* let all the peoples praise you.

6 The earth has brought forth her increase; \* may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

7 May God give us his blessing, \* and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

### **The First Lesson:      A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles [26:9-21]**

9 'Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth.\* <sup>10</sup>And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. <sup>11</sup>By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

12 'With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, <sup>13</sup>when at midday along the road, your Excellency,\* I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup>When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew\* language, "Saul, Saul, why are you

persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.” <sup>15</sup>I asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The Lord answered, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup>But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me\* and to those in which I will appear to you. <sup>17</sup>I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

<sup>19</sup> ‘After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, <sup>20</sup>but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. <sup>21</sup>For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **The Song of Zechariah** *Benedictus Dominus Deus* *Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \* he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \* born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \* and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \* holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give people knowledge of salvation \* by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \* the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **The Second Lesson: The Gospel of Matthew [10:16-22]**

<sup>16</sup>[Jesus said]: ‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup>Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; <sup>18</sup>and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup>When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at

that time; <sup>20</sup>for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup>Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; <sup>22</sup>and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

### **The Song of Mary** *Magnificat* *Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \* in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \* and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \* and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \* to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### **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.**

### **The Prayers**

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior; **deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Look upon your congregation; **give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Declare your glory among the nations; **and your wonders among all peoples.**

Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away; **never forget the lives of your poor.**

Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**and your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, who by the preaching of your apostle Paul has caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for our Nation**

Spirit of justice, creator Spirit; help us to make and keep this country a home for all its different peoples, and grant to our leaders imagination, courage and wisdom, that there may grow amongst us wellbeing and peace. **Amen.**

### **For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority**

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to your merciful care, that, being guided by your Providence, we may dwell secure in your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this Commonwealth, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to fulfill your purpose. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in justice; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer in Time of Transition**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined, through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their

caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 400, 000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for an End to Racism**

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

### **A Litany for Social Justice**

Pray for those who are hungry.

**Pray harder for those who will not feed them.**

Pray for those who struggle each week to pay their bills.

**Pray harder for the wealthy who do not care.**

Pray for those who are homeless.

**Pray harder for those who deny them shelter.**

Pray for the sick and lonely.

**Pray harder for those who will not give them comfort.**

Pray for those who cry out for dignity.

**Pray harder for those who will not listen.**

Pray for those oppressed by unjust wages.

**Pray harder for those who exploit them.**

Pray for those who bear the yoke of prejudice.

**Pray harder for those who discriminate against them.**

Pray for those whose basic needs are denied.

**Pray harder for public officials who cater to the greedy and ignore those bound unjustly. Amen.**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord,

our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May Christ, the son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of god almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Let us bless the Lord. **Amen.**