



Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals

Saturday, June 9, 2018 ❖ 8:30 am

† signifies that all are invited to rise in body, mind, or spirit

† CALL TO WORSHIP

(responsive)

O Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you:
as the day rises to meet the sun.

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.

Come, let us sing to the Lord:
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

† HYMN

My Hope Is Built

UMH 368

Words: Edward Mote; Music: William B. Bradbury

My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness. I
dare not trust the sweet - est frame, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name. On Christ the sol - id
rock I stand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand. All oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

PSALTER

Psalm 46:1-4

(responsive)

The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

God is our refuge and strength:

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved:

and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

though its waters rage and foam:

and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

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SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 12:1-12 (CEB)

These are the regulations and the case laws that you must carefully keep in the fertile land the Lord, your ancestors' God, has given to you to possess for as long as you live on that land: You must completely destroy every place where the nations that you are displacing worshipped their gods—whether on high mountains or hills or under leafy green trees. Rip down their altars and shatter their sacred stones. Burn their sacred poles with fire. Hack their gods' idols into pieces. Wipe out their names from that place. Don't act like they did toward the Lord your God! Instead, you must search for the location the Lord your God will select from all your tribes to put his name there, as his residence, and you must go there. You must bring your entirely burned offerings, your sacrifices, your tenth-part gifts, your contributions, your payments for solemn promises, your spontaneous gifts, and the oldest offspring of your herds and flocks to that place. You will have a feast there, each of you and your families, in the Lord your God's presence, and you will celebrate all you have done because the Lord your God has blessed you. Don't act like we've been acting here lately—everyone doing what seems right to them—because up to this point you haven't yet reached the place of rest or the inheritance the Lord your God is giving you. But you are about to cross the Jordan River and will settle in the land the Lord your God is giving you as your inheritance. Then he will give you rest from all your enemies on every side so that you live safely and securely. At that point, you must bring all that I am commanding you, your entirely burned offerings, your sacrifices, your tenth-part gifts, your contributions, and all your best payments that you solemnly promised to the Lord, to the location the Lord your God selects for his name to reside. Then you will rejoice in the Lord your God's presence: each of you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites who dwell in your cities because they have no designated inheritance.

Acts 6:1-15 (CEB)

About that time, while the number of disciples continued to increase, a complaint arose. Greek-speaking disciples accused the Aramaic-speaking disciples because their widows were being overlooked in the daily food service. The Twelve called a meeting of all the disciples and said, "It isn't right for us to set aside proclamation of God's word in order to serve tables. Brothers and sisters, carefully choose seven well-respected men from among you. They must be well-respected and endowed by the Spirit with exceptional wisdom. We will put them in charge of this concern. As for us, we will devote ourselves to prayer and the service of proclaiming the word." This proposal pleased the entire community. They selected Stephen, a man endowed by the Holy Spirit with exceptional faith, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. The community presented these seven to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. God's word continued to grow. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased significantly. Even a large group of priests embraced the faith. Stephen, who stood out among the believers for the way God's grace was at work in his life and for his exceptional endowment with divine power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people. Opposition arose from some who belonged to the so-called Synagogue of Former Slaves. Members from Cyrene, Alexandria, Cilicia, and Asia entered into debate with Stephen. However, they couldn't resist the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke. Then they secretly enticed some people to claim, "We heard him insult Moses and God." They stirred up the people, the elders, and the legal experts. They caught Stephen, dragged him away, and brought him before the Jerusalem Council. Before the council, they presented false witnesses who testified, "This man never stops speaking against this holy place and the Law. In fact, we heard him say that this man Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and alter the customary practices Moses gave us." Everyone seated in the council stared at Stephen, and they saw that his face was radiant, just like an angel's.

The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

John Wesley, who founded the Methodist movement, wrote, “One of the principle rules of religion is to lose no occasion of serving God. And since he is invisible to our eyes, we are to serve him in our neighbor; which he receives as if done to himself in person, standing visibly before us.”

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

Lord, we want to serve you in the love we show our neighbors. Teach us to embrace each person made in your image as if we were greeting you. Amen.

SENDING MUSIC

May the Peace of the Lord Go With You

Words: Celtic Book of Prayer; Music: Julie Janisch

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you: Wher - ev - er he may
send you; may he guide you through the wil - der-ness: pro - tect you through the
storm; may he bring you home re - joic-ing: at the won - ders he has
shown you; may he bring you home re - joic-ing: once a - gain in - to our doors.

NOTES:

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