

# An Order for Morning Prayer

**Call to Prayer:** (Psalm 96: 2 – 4)

L: Sing to the Lord and bless his Name,

**P: proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

L: Declare his glory among the nations

**P: and his wonders among all peoples.**

L: For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

**P: he is more to be feared than all gods.**

**The request for Presence** (Psalm 90:14)

L: Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning,

**P: So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

**Blessing One: Creation.** A Thanksgiving for Creation

(A prayer or scripture reading)

**Blessing Two: Revelation** (A Scripture Reading)

**The Shema**

**All: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.**

(Silent reflection)

**All: Praised be God's glorious sovereignty throughout all time.**

**The Morning Psalm**

(Suggested Psalms: 145; 150; 18; 91; 81; 93; 100; 94; 95)

**Response** (Silent reflection, meditation, witness, song, or prayer)

**Blessing Three:** God alone is Eternal Redeemer

*Who is like You, Lord, among all that is worshiped? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, working wonders?*

*(Exodus 15:11)*

*The redeemed sang a new song for You. They sang in chorus at the shore of the sea, acclaiming Your sovereignty: "The Lord shall reign throughout all time." (Exodus 15:18)*

**Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer for the Day**

**All: Lord God, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your almighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠✠ **Itinerary:** Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee  
 Boat Ride, Tabgha, Chapel of the Primacy, Magdala

*We begin this day with the prayer that Jesus himself would have said:*

**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Praised be God's glorious sovereignty throughout all time. Amen**

## Capernaum – Mark 1:21-34 (Jesus teaches and heals)

In Capernaum Jesus found his first disciples, Peter, Andrew, James and John. Jesus left Nazareth and made his home at Peter's house in Capernaum after he heard that John the Baptist had been arrested. In Capernaum Jesus healed the Centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, the paralyzed man who was lowered through the roof, a man who was possessed, and many others.

It was in Capernaum that Jesus directed Peter to catch a fish with a coin in its mouth to pay the Temple tax. On leaving Capernaum, Jesus condemned it along with other cities that had not heeded his call to repentance. A church was built in the 4th century over what is believed to be the house of Peter. Since then, a new church has been built on the site. Capernaum appears in 16 Bible verses.

**Reflection:** Capernaum: it is a city where Jesus was constantly in intense service to others. Jesus was busy, busy, busy! How do you feel the morning after an exhausting day where there was just one thing after another? Jesus had been at the synagogue. He was teaching and casting out unclean spirits.

After synagogue, he went to Simon's House – probably looking for a little rest, and a meal, and fellowship...the same things many of us look forward to after attending Church. But the hostess, Simon's mother-in-law, was ill with a fever. So, no rest for the weary...Jesus goes to work healing. And, if that weren't enough, in the evening they brought to Jesus all manner of those who were sick or possessed and there was even more healing and casting out evil spirits.

Jesus must have been exhausted, must have felt that everyone wanted a little piece of him. The next morning, you might have thought he would sleep in. That's what many of us probably would have done. But Jesus, even though he had to be bone tired, got up early to go off by himself and pray. What do you think Jesus prayed about? In the midst of every thing and everyone tugging on him, asking for him, expecting great things from him, do you explain his heart's apparent longing to be in conversation with God?

Reflect on your own life. How do times of intense service, mission, and ministry affect you? Does your activity, your participation in mission and ministry, prompt you to talk to God about what you have experienced and what has taken place? How is God speaking to you this day about your acts of service?

## Mount of the Beatitudes – Matthew 5:1-12 (Jesus Teaches)

**Reflection:** In baptism God says, “You are my beloved, with you I am well pleased. Think about Matthew 5 in relation to what God says to Jesus and to us at our baptisms. Jesus, in his sermon on the mount, pronounces his blessings *before* people have had a chance to respond to his call, *before* they’d left anything to follow him, *before* they had been found worthy or unworthy.

The blessings come in his very first sermon, right up front: blessed are you, blessed are you, you indeed are very blessed. Jesus, in fact, carries on, continues, God’s original blessing in person, word, and action...a proclamation and witness that is important to hear.

- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Blessed are those who grieve, for they will be comforted.
- Blessed are the peacemakers.
- And blessed even are those who are persecuted, for theirs too is the kingdom of heaven. (These were a people under occupation. In a sense Jesus says, “Don’t allow the occupation to occupy you! Don’t allow it to dwell within you and consume you. Instead, dwell, live out of, consume and be consumed by the blessing of God.”)



In other words, blessing can live alongside suffering and trouble. In fact, blessing can bring us out of suffering and trouble. *What hope* this can give to a hurting world! Blessing means that the presence and goodness of God will be with you when you need it most.

If you and every member of your congregation made a concerted effort to be pure in spirit, meek, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers—to really walk with Jesus—how would your community be transformed? How might the beatitudes bring people together? How can God use you in your church to reflect the character and spirit of Jesus?

## **Sea of Galilee – Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus calms the Storm)**

**Reflection:** The Disciples had been walking with Jesus, listening to his teaching, witnessing his miracles. And yet, when they get in the midst of the storm, they seem to forget that Jesus is present. We sometimes find ourselves asking the same questions as the first disciples: “Jesus, don’t you care?” How do we walk with Jesus and abide in the mystery of God’s presence in seemingly uncontrollable circumstances or storms?

## **Tabgha – Chapels of primacy & multiplication**

**Matthew 14:13-21 and Mark 6:30-44 (Feeding of the 5000);**

**John 21:1-25 (The big catch and restoration of Peter)**

**Reflection:** Empty and filled. Dying to self often calls us to give up both our personal preferences and our time. When our service is costly, God can fill our hearts and multiply our compassion as well as the outcomes or results. As you walk with Jesus in this place of multiplication, he is asking you a question. Can you hear it? “Do you love me?” Jesus calls you to multiply care for others with nothing less than his own love...which is more abundant than you can ask or think. “Do you love me?” Jesus wants to know. How will you respond?

## **Magdala**

Magdala is known traditionally as the birthplace of Mary Magdalene. Mary is named at least 12 times in the gospels, where she is described as one of several women traveling with Jesus and his disciples and personally supporting his work. She was one of the women who witnessed Jesus’ crucifixion and planned to tend to his body after the Sabbath. Mary Magdalene was the first eyewitness of the risen Christ and was commissioned by Jesus to inform the disciples of his resurrection.

## Call to Prayer:

L: God is a faithful King.

**P: Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One.**

**All: Praised be God's glorious sovereignty throughout all time.**

**A Reading:** Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your might. And these words which I command you this day you shall take to heart. You shall diligently teach them to your children. You shall recite them at home and away, morning and night. You shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, they shall be a symbol above your eyes, and you shall inscribe them upon the doorposts of your homes and upon your gates. (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*)

**Prayer:** Help us, our dear Lord, as we come to the end of this day, to lie down in peace; and awaken us to life again. Spread over us Your shelter of peace, guide us with Your good counsel. Save us because of Your mercy. Shield us from enemies and pestilence, from starvation, sword and sorrow. Remove the evil forces that surround us, shelter us in the shadow of Your wings. You, O God, guard us and deliver us. You are a gracious and merciful King. Guard our coming and our going, grant us life and peace, now and always. Praised is the Lord by day and praised by night, praised when we lie down and praised when we rise up. In Your hand are the souls of the living and the dead, the life of every creature, the breath of all flesh. Into Your hand I entrust my spirit: You will redeem me, Lord God of truth. Our God in Heaven, assert the unity of Your rule; affirm Your sovereignty, and reign over us forever. Amen

*Biblical Verses (These biblical verses recall God's blessings and protection in ancient times:)*

Then Jacob said: "May the angel who has redeemed me from all harm bless the lads. May they carry on my name and the name of my fathers, Abraham and Isaac. May they become teeming multitudes upon the earth." And God said: "If you will listen diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, doing what is right in His sight, heeding His mitzvot and keeping all His laws, then I will not inflict upon you any of the diseases that I brought upon the Egyptians, for I the Lord am your healer."

The angel of the Lord said to Satan: "The Lord rebuke you, Satan. May the Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you. Is not this man a brand snatched from the fire?" Behold Solomon carried in his litter — sixty of Israel's heroes are its escort. All of them are skilled swordsmen, all trained at war, each with his sword at the ready to ward off any danger of the night. May the Lord bless you and guard you. May the Lord show you favor and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you kindness and grant you peace.

The Guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.

## Blessing and Thanksgiving

This is the day that the Lord has made! Thank you for your blessings throughout this day. Thank you for walking with us, Jesus, as we seek to walk more closely with you. Bless us now as we rest and fill us with your spirit this evening in ways that renew our mind, body, soul, and spirit so that we may awaken to your fullness of life ready to learn, and grow as disciples who multiply your transforming love and grace!

*\*\* Adapted from various resources*