

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.

Day Six

✠✠ Itinerary: Cana, Nazareth, Tel Dothan, Samaria, Mt. Ebal, Mt Gerizim, Nablus, Jacob's Well and overnight in Jerusalem

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

Cana – John 2:1-11 (Jesus turns water into wine – first miracle)

Ever notice that sometimes God asks us to do things that just do not seem to make any sense? “Fill the jars with water,” says Jesus. Have you ever thought about what the servants might have been thinking? How about the one that takes that first ladle of the water from the jars to the wine steward to taste? That servant must have been trembling in his shoes.

But the water has turned into great tasting wine. The best! When we run short in our walk with Jesus, Jesus will provide! Our job in walking with him is, as the old hymn goes, to trust and obey. We, like the servants, are to trust and obey in our walk. And maybe even more importantly, to pour out to others the gifts of transformation and new life.

Nazareth

Nazareth appears in 28 Bible verses: Matt 2:23, Matt 4:13, Matt 21:11, Matt 26:71, Mark 1:9, Mark 1:24, Mark 10:47, Mark 16:6, Luke 1:26, Luke 2:4, Luke 2:39, Luke 2:51, Luke 4:16, Luke 4:34, Luke 18:37, Luke 24:19, John 1:45, John 1:46, John 18:5, John 18:7, John 19:19, Acts 2:22, Acts 3:6, Acts 4:10, Acts 6:14, Acts 10:38, Acts 22:8 and Acts 26:9.

The story from Luke 1:26-38 where the Angel speaks to Mary is one of the more familiar passages in scripture. But also, we have the passage that asks the question, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” Nazareth is a place of challenge. With what is Jesus challenging you as you walk with the historical and the very present Jesus?

Tel Dothan: Genesis 37:12-28

The day Joseph's brothers pastured their flocks in the Dothan Valley, they sold Joseph to some Ishmaelites traveling the highway on their way to Egypt. At the time everything seemed to work against Joseph. God seemed *very* much absent, and yet was still very much in control. The brothers only saw the present, but as they had the opportunity to look back on later events, they came to an experience that ultimately provided much needed food...and a change of life.

Samaria

Samaria appears in 113 Bible verses

Jews and Samaritans were not friendly with one another. Jews thought the Samaritans were unclean. However, Jesus showed another way. Remember the Samaritan woman at the well? When you walk with Jesus, you may say or do things in expanding God's Kingdom that some of your own people will not understand and may criticize.

Jesus crosses the boundary of his culture's understanding of what is acceptable. As you walk with Jesus, how can you expand your ideas of what is acceptable so that you might meet the needs of "the unacceptable" as Jesus did? What is Jesus attempting to show you or teach you?

Mt. Ebal:

Mount Ebal appears in 5 Bible verses: Deut. 11:29, Deut. 27:4, Deut. 27:13, Josh 8:30 and Josh. 8:33.

Mt. Gerizim

Mount Gerizim appears in 4 Bible verses: Deut. 11:29, Deut. 27:12, Josh. 8:33 and Judg. 9:7.

Mount Gerizim is a mountain next to Mount Ebal, overlooking the Valley of Shechem. In Deuteronomy 11:29, Moses tells the Israelites that when the Lord brings them into the promised land, a blessing shall be proclaimed from Mount Gerizim, and a curse from Mount Ebal.

Nablus

One of Palestine's largest cities, located between Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim. Home to Jacob's Well.

Jacob's Well – John 4:5-42 (Jesus and the woman at the well)

Jerusalem

Jerusalem appears in 719 Bible verses.

The original site of Jerusalem, as it was during the days of King David about 3000 years ago, is still sometimes called the City of David. It is south of the Temple Mount and is surrounded by hills, as reflected in Psalms 125:2, of which the NIV translation reads: "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people both now and forevermore."



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*