

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 Eight

✚ Itinerary: Old City, Cardo, Davidson Center, Southern Wall Excavations, Teaching Steps, Western Wall, Pool of Bethesda, Antonia Fortress, Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulcher

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

Old City

At the heart of the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian religions, the old city is a walled one-kilometer area in the center of Jerusalem. The Old City is home to the Western Wall (aka Wailing Wall, and in Hebrew, “Kotel”). This is the last remaining wall of what was the Jewish Temple and is today the holiest site in the world for Jews. Above the Western Wall lies the Dome of the Rock, important for Muslims as the site where the prophet Muhammad is said to have risen to heaven.

Within the Old City

Cardo: Jewish Quarter of the Old City; Davidson Center: Contains visual aids, artifacts, videos; Southern Wall excavations; Teaching Steps

Western Wall – Psalm 122 (Prayer for Peace)

Reflection: We have been and are on a pilgrimage. We seek to walk with Jesus each and every day, but also, on this pilgrimage, to walk where Jesus walked. We seek to enrich and engage our souls and deepen our relationship with Jesus and with God's mission and ministry.

We seek to experience sacred space within and without, and so we pray this ancient prayer of the Psalms: *Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.” For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, “Peace be within you.” For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good. Amen* (Psalm 122: 6 – 9)

Pool of Bethesda: John 5:1-18 (The healing at the pool)

Reflection: Jesus asks the man at the pool, “Do you want to be made well?” Jesus challenges this man to change. Yes, he was sick, but this is the life that this man has come to know. He knows how to function in this life as he is. Change? Being made well? That would change everything!

What ways of life do we keep perpetuating because we are afraid to be made well—in body, mind, or spirit—in this life? Jesus walks with us because he seeks to make us well. As we walk with Jesus, Jesus turns and asks us the same question, “Do you want to be made well?”

Antonia Fortress – John 18:28-19:1 (Trial before Pilate)

Reflection: In John 19 we see Jesus dressed in purple, wearing a crown that mocks rather than honors him. Jesus, weary, worn, bruised and bloodied, looks nothing like a king in the purple and a crown of thorns. Pilate says, “Here is your King!” The tragedy in this moment is not only the impending death of Jesus, but that people fail to recognize God in Jesus.

Will you, can you, recognize the Jesus who walks with you and prays that you will walk with him? Jesus may be in the child who needs you to listen. Jesus may be in the neighbor who needs your help with something. Jesus might be in the abused, who needs you to intervene.

Jesus walks with you, is present with you. Can you see him? Will you recognize his presence? Take courage and ask for the grace to see and experience Jesus in the people and places you meet along your journey so that you may serve your God and King.

Via Dolorosa – Luke 23:26-33; Mark 15:21-32; Matthew 27:32-44 (The way to Calvary)

Reflection: Only Mark’s gospel tells us that this was a life-changing experience for Simon because, in our reading from Mark 15, Mark says something else which no other gospel mentions: “they compel one Simon, a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country.” Only Mark tells us this, that Simon was passing by, coming out of the countryside into the city of Jerusalem, but the Lord was travelling out of the city.

These two men were travelling in opposite directions on that day. Simon was coming in and the Lord was going out. Simon, who was walking into the city, suddenly found himself turned around at the instructions of the centurion and found his life walking in exactly the opposite direction. For Simon, meeting Jesus turned his life completely around. His experience of meeting the Lord would utterly change his life to walk in the opposite direction, following in the footsteps of Christ himself.

Simon would never ever forget that moment of contact with the Lord on Golgotha’s height. I think he was transformed by his contact with the suffering servant. How about you? Will you allow your walk with Jesus to turn your life around and transform you?

Church of the Holy Sepulcher – Matthew 27:32-60; Luke 23:44-56; Mark 15:33-47 (Death and burial of Jesus)

Reflection: “Truly this man was God’s Son!” Ponder this confession. Is it yours? *“Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter’s power; your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour. Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ today. See him at the judgement hall, beaten bound, reviled, arraigned; O the worm-wood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained! Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.”* (“Go to Dark Gethsemane” UMH 290)



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*