

Morning prayer Thursday



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Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
Even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

Psalm 139: 7, 10

Please stand.

Officiant O Lord, open our lips
All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant We adore you:
All **most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here and in all your churches throughout the world,
we bless you because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

Sung Worship

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here;
Come bow before him now
with reverence and fear:
In him no sin is found
We stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One, is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
How awesome is the sight
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place;
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace –
No work too hard for him
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

Words: David J. Evans (b. 1957)

Music: Be Still, David J. Evans

**Jesus, Jesus,
Holy and anointed one, Jesus.**

**Jesus, Jesus,
Risen and exalted one, Jesus.**

**Your name is like honey on my lips,
Your spirit like water to my soul
Your word is a lamp unto my feet,
Jesus I love You, I love You.**

Words and Music: John Barnett/ Vineyard Music

Please sit.

Psalm 139

translated by Marchiene Vroon Rienstra

All **Search me out, O God, and know my heart.**

O God, you search me and know me inside out.
You know my comings and my goings.
You understand my thoughts completely.
You examine my ways, whether waking or sleeping,
And are familiar with the habits of my being.
Before I speak a word, You already know it.
You are all around me, behind me and before me.
You lay Your loving hand on me, choosing me in love.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me to comprehend.
It is utterly beyond me.

All

Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

Where could I go to escape Your Spirit?
Where could I flee from Your presence?
Were I to go to the highest heaven, I would find You there.
Were I to descend into the depths of hell,
even there I would find You!
Were I to take the red wings of the dawn
and flee to the sea's utmost end,
Even there You would be leading me,
and Your right hand would hold me fast!
Were I to say, 'I will take cover in darkness,'
the night would turn to light.
For darkness is not dark to You.
The night shines like the day,
and darkness is as bright as light.
Waking or sleeping, I am always with You.

All

Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

You have formed my innermost parts.
You knit me together in the womb of my mother.
I thank You, for I am wonder-full,
as my soul knows very well.
You clearly saw even my bones
when You made me in secret,
When You wove me together
in the dark depths of the womb.
Your eyes saw me as embryo, and before my days began,
You shaped them.
My whole life is written in Your Book of Life!

All

Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

How precious Your thoughts are to me, El Shaddai!
How great in number they are!
If I were to try and count them, it would be impossible,
Like trying to count the grains of sand on the seashore.

All

Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

Search me, O God, and examine my heart.
Try me, and test my motives and thoughts.
See if there be any evil in me,
And lead me in the way of eternal life.

All **Search me out, O God, and know my heart.**

Please stand. The whole congregation joins in with the text in bold and says the whole verse without a pause, taking our cue from the officiant.

Canticle

O Holy Spirit, Fiery Comforter Spirit,
Life of the life of all creatures,
Holy are You, You that give existence to all form.
Holy are You, You that are balm for the mortally wounded.
Holy are You, You that cleanse deep hurt.

**Fire of love, breath of all holiness,
You are so delicious to our hearts!
You infuse our hearts deeply with the good of virtue.
O Holy Spirit, clear fountain, in You we perceive God,
Who gathers the perplexed and seeks the lost.**

Holy Spirit, through you clouds billow, breezes blow,
Stones drip with trickling streams,
Streams that are the source of the earth's lush greening.
Likewise, You are the source of human understanding.

**You bless with the Breath of Wisdom.
Thus, all our praise is Yours,
You who are the melody itself of praise,
The joy of life, the mighty honour,
the hope of those to whom You
give the gifts of life. Amen.**

Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179)

First Reading

2 Corinthians 4: 1–15

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership is there between righteousness and lawlessness? Or what fellowship is there between light and darkness? What agreement does Christ have with Beliar? Or what does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

‘I will live in them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.
Therefore come out from them,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch nothing unclean;
then I will welcome you,
and I will be your father,
and you shall be my sons and daughters,
says the Lord Almighty.’

Reader Here ends the reading.

The reading is followed by a time of silence, after which please stand.

Gospel Canticle
The Benedictus

**Now bless the God of Israel who comes in love and power,
who raises from the royal house deliv’rance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,
to save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.**

**Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear,
that we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year.
And you, my child, shall go before, to preach, to prophesy,
that all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.**

In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace,
that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One, O worship and adore.

To God the Father, fount of grace, through his beloved Son,
with God their Spirit, bond of love, be glory ever One

Words: Ruth Duck, James Quinn SJ
Music: Coe Fen, John Mason (1646–1694)

Please sit or kneel to pray.

Prayers

Silence may be kept.

Leader Almighty God,
who filled the heart of Columba
with the joy of the Holy Spirit
and with deep love for those in his care:
may your pilgrim people follow him,
strong in faith, sustained by hope,
and one in the love that binds us to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power and the glory
are yours now and ever.
Amen.**

Please stand.

Hymn

**King of kings, Majesty
God of Heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end
All within me falls at Your throne:
*Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your Majesty.***

**Earth and Heaven worship You
Love eternal, Faithful and True
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls
Brought this sinner near to Your throne
All within me cries out in praise:
*Your majesty, I can but bow...***

The Conclusion

Leader In work and worship:
All **God is with us.**

Leader Gathered and scattered:
All **God is with us.**

Leader Now and always:
All **God is with us.**

Leader In work and worship:
All **Amen.**

Leader May the strength of God, the Source of all being,
the wisdom of God, the Eternal Word,
and the joy of God, the divine Spirit
abide with us this day.
All **Amen.**

Leader We go in peace.
All **Thanks be to God.**



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