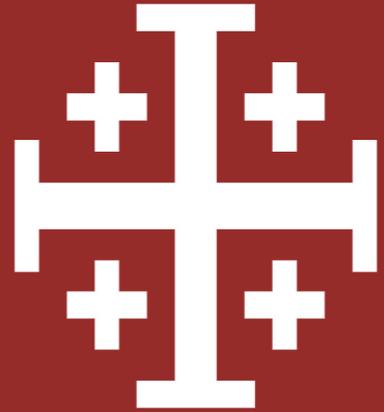


Great Prayers of the Bible

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

*Learning from
the Masters*

HANNAH



Grace Lutheran Church

February 25

PRAYER

Prayer the church's banquet, angel's age,
God's breath in man returning to his birth,
The soul in paraphrase, heart in pilgrimage,
The Christian plummet sounding heav'n and earth
Engine against th' Almighty, sinner's tow'r,
Reversed thunder, Christ-side-piercing spear,
The six-days world transposing in an hour,
A kind of tune, which all things hear and fear;
Softness, and peace, and joy, and love, and bliss,
Exalted manna, gladness of the best,
Heaven in ordinary, man well drest,
The milky way, the bird of Paradise,
Church-bells beyond the stars heard, the soul's blood,
The land of spices; something understood.

George Herbert

George Herbert (1593-1633) was a poet, orator, and priest of the Church of England. He is the author of the text of Hymn 816 "Come My Way, My Truth, My Life" set to a beautiful tune by the famous English composer, Ralph Vaughan Williams.



Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen



Be still and know that I am God; (be still,) be
still and know that I am God.

Text: Psalm 46; Steven C. Warner
Tune: Steven C. Warner ©1993 World Library Publications, Inc.

Silence

Confession

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I have set the Lord always before me; because the Lord is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

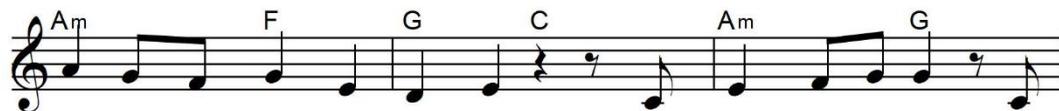
Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.



mp

1. For what we have done and left un - done, we
2. For what You have done, Your life of love, You



fall on Your count-less mer - cies. For sins that are known and
per - fect - ly lived, we praise You. Though tempt - ed and tried, You



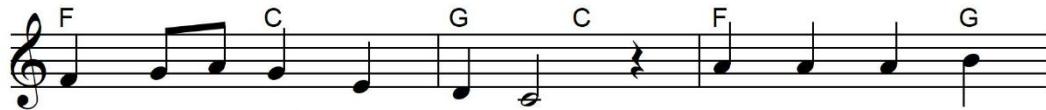
those un - known, we call on Your name so ho - ly. For
fixed Your eyes, You fin - ished the work God gave You. And



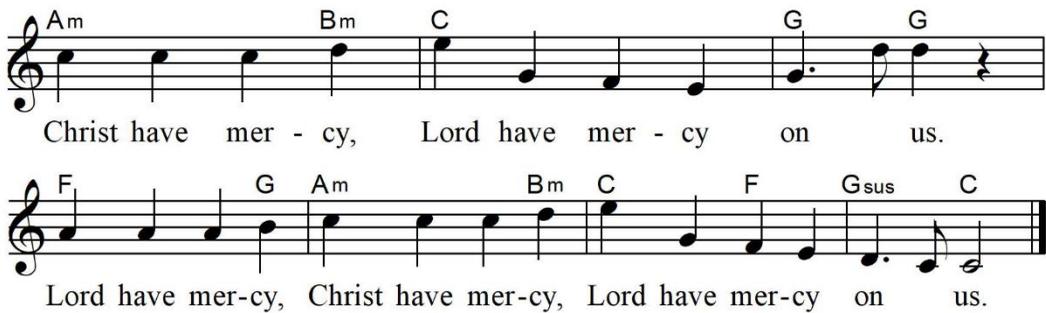
en - vy and pride, for clos - ing our eyes, for scon - ing our ver - y
there on the tree, a King a - mong thieves, You bled for a world's be -



neigh - bor. In thought word and deed we've failed You our King; how
tray - al. You loved to the end, our mer - ci - ful friend: how



deep - ly we need a Sav - ior. *f* Lord have mer - cy,
pure and for - ev - er faith - ful.



Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy on us.
 Lord have mer-cy, Christ have mer-cy, Lord have mer-cy on us.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Spirit of God, stir our minds, open our hearts and free our voices to come to you with our authentic selves, that we will bear our souls to you with all their joy, anxiety, pain, longing, and hopes. As you heard the prayers and responded in grace and love to the prayers of your faithful servants, Hannah, Jonah, Nehemiah, Peter, Cornelius and your Son, our Savior, Jesus, so we, too seek the blessing of being heard and responded to out of your love and grace for us. Come, Lord, let us sit together this evening and find peace and contentment in our conversation. Amen.

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 1:1-1

Narrator Elkanah (Husband of Hannah & Peninnah) Hannah Eli (High Priest)

Narrator: There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. Now this man used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife

Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb. Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she used to provoke her. Therefore, Hannah wept and would not eat.

Elkanah: Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?

Narrator: After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.

Hannah: O Lord of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head.

Narrator: As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore, Eli thought she was drunk.

Eli: How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine.

Hannah: No, my Lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time.

Eli: Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him.

Hannah: Let your servant find favor in your sight.

Narrator: Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband, and her countenance was sad no longer. They rose early in the morning and

worshipped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said . . .

Hannah: I have asked him of the Lord.

Silence

Kyrie

Refrain Sung 3x by Congregation

G C am D bm em am D G

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Cantor Verses

1. Lord Jesus Christ, you were sent to heal the contrite, have mercy on us.
2. Lord Jesus Christ, you came to call all sinners, have mercy on us.
3. Lord Jesus Christ, you intercede for us, have mercy on us.

Reading

1 Samuel 1:21-2:11

Narrator: The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband . . .

Hannah: As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and remain there forever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.

Elkanah: Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only may the Lord establish his word.

Narrator: So, the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When

she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

Hannah: Oh, my Lord! As you live, my Lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.

Narrator: She left him there for the Lord.

Hannah: My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. "There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world. "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed.

Narrator: Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, while the boy remained to minister to the Lord, in the presence of the priest Eli.

Silence

Prayer Hymn

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum-bere'd with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so-lace there.

Meditation "Drunk in Prayer" by Rick Morely, Episcopal Priest

Twice in the Bible people who are praying are mistaken for being drunk. Hannah on the threshold of the Temple of Shiloh . . . [and] On the day of Pentecost the apostles are filled with the power of the holy spirit . . . It does make you wonder what that kind of prayer looks like. . . Down cast eyes? Solemn faces? Lips pursed? [Hands folded?] [Knees bent?] I don't know about you, but my mental images of prayer don't conjure up anything that even remotely resembles drunkenness. Nor do my mental images of public drunkenness resemble something that looks like prayer. But, my guess is that the problem here isn't my understanding of drunkenness, but rather prayer.

We too often make prayer to be something that is dour and zapped of power and thrill. Ask someone to offer the prayer before a meal, and all of a sudden, the room gets quiet, people who are laughing and talking are shot looks that could kill, and out-of-the-blue people start talking in broken Elizabethan English. . . We make prayer out to be something that's awkward and forced. Somber and lifeless. But, not Hannah.

Hannah is praying for a child. She's praying from the very depths of her longing. Standing there only steps away from the Ark of the Covenant was no time for "thee's" and "thou's." No time for stilted awkwardness, and fake formality. No, she was pouring out her very soul. Her heart. She was communicating to a God she knew and loved. And, she was bearing a heavy burden, and she was unloading that burden on her Lord.

And, you know what? When you communicate with someone that you know and love, you do so with exuberance and passion. Pet names and knowing glances. With tears of joy and tears of loss. Given the right circumstances, sometimes you might even look drunk. Because the relationship that we're offered with God is a real one. A genuine relationship. The God who made the heavens and the earth wants to know us and wants us to know him. And when we're excited, we're to gush out like Hannah breaking out into song. And when things are falling apart, we're to gush out like Hannah at Shiloh.

In short: lose the grim and stilted faces. Find ways for your posture of prayer to look more like a party in which God was invited.

O Lord Hear My Prayer

Ostinato Chorale

em gm am D

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:

The first system of musical notation features a treble and bass staff in G major and common time. The treble staff has a melodic line starting with a quarter note G, followed by a repeat sign and a series of chords: em (E-G), gm (G-B), am (A-C), and D (D-F#). The bass staff provides a steady accompaniment with chords: em (E-G), gm (G-B), am (A-C), and D (D-F#).

gm C f#dim B em gm

when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The treble staff has chords: gm (E-G), C (C-E), f#dim (F#-A), B (B-D), em (E-G), and gm (E-G). The bass staff has chords: gm (E-G), C (C-E), f#dim (F#-A), B (B-D), em (E-G), and gm (E-G).

am D em am7 B em

Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

The third system concludes the piece. The treble staff has chords: am (A-C), D (D-F#), em (E-G), am7 (A-C-Eb), B (B-D), and em (E-G). The bass staff has chords: am (A-C), D (D-F#), em (E-G), am7 (A-C-Eb), B (B-D), and em (E-G).

Prayers from the Taizé Community . . .

P : Jesus our hope, in you we find the consolation with which God comes to flood our lives, and we understand that, in prayer, we can bring everything to you, entrust everything to you.

P : Jesus our peace, by your Gospel you call us to be very simple, very humble. You cause to grow within us an infinite gratitude for your constant presence in our lives.

P : God of consolation, even when we feel nothing of your presence, still, you are there. Your presence is invisible, but your Holy Spirit is always within us.

P : Holy Spirit, you have a call for everyone one of us. So come, prepare our hearts to discover what it is that you expect of each of us.

P : God of compassion, disconcerted by the incomprehensible suffering of the innocent, we pray for those who are experiencing times of trial. Inspire the hearts of those who seek the peace that is so indispensable for the whole human family.

P : God of consolation, you burden yourself with our burdens, so that we can move forward at every moment, from anxiety toward trust, from shadows toward light.

C: Gracious Lord, we give you thanks for the day, especially for the good we were permitted to give and to receive; the day is now past and we commit it to you. We entrust to you the night; we rest in surety, for you are our help, and you neither slumber nor sleep.

C: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

Abide With Me

Capo 1: (D) (A) (Bm) (D) (G) (A7) (D)
 Eb Bb Cm Eb Ab Bb7 Eb



1 A - bide with me! Fast falls the e - ven - tide. The dark-ness
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day. Earth's joys grow
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour. What but thy
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless. Ills have no
 5 Hold then thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes. Shine through the



(G) (D) (Em) (E7) (A) (D) (A) (Bm) (D)
 Ab Eb Fm F7 Bb Eb Bb Cm Eb



deep - ens; God, with me a - bide. When oth - er help - ers
 dim, its glo - ries pass a - way. Change and de - cay in
 grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r? Who like thy - self my
 weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness. Where is death's sting? Where,
 gloom, and point me to the skies. Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and



(G) (B7) (Em) (A7) (D) (Bm)(Em)(D/A)(A7) (D)
 Ab C7 Fm Bb7 Eb Cm Fm Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb



fail, and com - forts flee, help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 all a - round I see. O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me.
 grave, thy vic - to - ry? I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 earth's vain shad - ows flee. In life and death, O God, a - bide with me.

