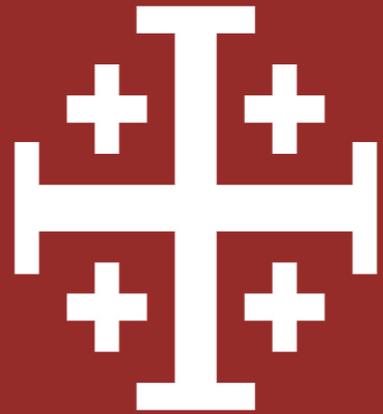


Great Prayers of the Bible

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

*Learning from
the Masters*

JONAH



Grace Lutheran Church

March 11

Alas my Lord,
How should I wrestle all the livelong night
With Thee my God, my Strength and my Delight?
How can it need
So agonized an effort and a strain
To make Thy Face of Mercy shine again?
How can it need
Such wringing out of breathless prayer to move
Thee to Thy wonted Love, when Thou art Love?
Yet Abraham
So hung about Thine Arm outstretched and bared,
That for ten righteous Sodom had been spared.
Yet Jacob did
So hold Thee by the clenched hand of prayer
That he prevailed, and Thou didst bless him there.
Elias prayed,
And sealed the founts of Heaven; he prayed again
And lo, Thy Blessing fell in showers of rain.

Gulped by the fish,
As by the pit, lost Jonah made his moan;
And Thou forgavest, waiting to atone.
All Nineveh
Fasting and girt in sackcloth raised a cry,
Which moved Thee ere the day of grace went by.
Thy Church prayed on
And on for blessed Peter in his strait,
Till opened of its own accord the gate.
Yea, Thou my God
Hast prayed all night, and in the garden prayed
Even while, like melting wax, Thy strength was made.
Alas for him
Who faints, despite Thy Pattern, King of Saints:
Alas, alas, for me, the one that faints.
Lord, give us strength
To hold Thee fast, until we hear Thy Voice
Which Thine own know, who hearing It rejoice.

Lord, give us strength
To hold Thee fast until we see Thy Face,
Full Fountain of all Rapture and all Grace.

But when our strength
Shall be made weakness, and our bodies clay,
Hold Thou us fast and give us sleep till day.



Christina Rossetti's (1830-1894) poetry has never disappeared from view. Her works continue to be popular in both Christian devotional materials and modern hymnals: "In the Bleak Mid-Winter", a Christmas Carol in our own hymnal.

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.

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 so we can come to you with our authentic selves, bearing our soul, our joy, our anxiety, our pain, our longing, and our hope. As you heard 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 long for you to hear and respond to our prayers this night. Come, Lord, let us sit together now with you and find peace and contentment in our conversation. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Jonah

Narrator

God

Captain

Sailors

Jonah

Narr: The word of the Lord came to Jonah, son of Amittai, saying,

God: Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.

Narr: But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the Lord. But the Lord hurled a great

wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep.

Capt: What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.

Sailors: Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.

Narr: So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

Sailors: Tell us, Jonah, why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?

Jonah: I am a Hebrew; I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.

Narr: Then the men were even more afraid.

Sailor: What is this that you have done!

Narr: For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them so.

Sailors: What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?

Narr: For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous.

Jonah: Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.

Narr: Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them.

Sailors: Please, O Lord, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O Lord, have done as it pleased you.

Narr: So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the Lord even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the Lord and made vows. But the Lord provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, saying,

Jonah: "I called to the Lord out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; how shall I look again upon your holy temple?' The waters closed in over me; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped around my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me forever; yet you brought up my life from the Pit, O Lord my God. As my life was ebbing away, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. Those who worship vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the Lord!"

Narr: Then the Lord spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

Silence

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

Jonah

Jonah

King

God

Narrator

Narr: So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city; a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out,

Jonah: Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!

Narr: And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth. When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh:

King: By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who knows? God may repent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

K Narr: When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said,

Jonah: O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

God: Is it right for you to be angry?

Narr: Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said,

Jonah: It is better for me to die than to live.

God: Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?

Jonah: Yes, angry enough to die.

God: You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Silence

Prayer Hymn

The Reach of Grace

Long Meter (8.8.8.8)

1.No depth of sea, no silent cave,
Is hidden from the One who saves;
Though walls of stone or flesh enclose,
Our secret thoughts our Father knows.

2.When Jonah cried from ocean's night,
Deep in the void, bereft of light,
The heavy waves could not suppress
The voice of faith in deep distress.

3.No distance mocks the Spirit's reach,
No storm can drown our feeble speech;
In darkest hold or desert bare,
Our Lord is always with us there.

4.No strange or distant shore we tread
Is lost to Him who breaks the bread;
In every "nowhere" we may be,
His mercy comes to set us free.

Meditation on Jonah as our Patron Saint

by Todd Weir

Jonah may be one of our patron saints. The world conspires to make Jonahs out of all of us. The world beats us down and tells us that you can't change the big picture, so just fall in line and make the best living that you can for yourself and your family. Our values may tell us we need to head East to Nineveh, but we turn around and walk west and get on the boat with Jonah, because it is just too hard. We spend some of our precious time in the belly of the whale, out of touch with our calling, our sense of meaning and purpose.

Several years ago, Michael Lerner wrote a book called "The Politics of Meaning." Lerner said that too often we give up on our deepest held values of compassion, caring and community because they do not seem practical in the real world. Instead, an ethos of selfishness and materialism prevails by default. These are the values that we settle for when our deeper values seem out of reach. Whether we consider ourselves liberal or conservative or apolitical, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish or New Age; individualism and materialism are powerful determinates of our lives. We may not have meaningful work or chances to make a difference, but materialism tells us that we can at least "Do the Dew" and drive a comfortable car. We may not be able to bring about racial reconciliation or even have the kind of relationships we want, but individualism tells us that we can pursue our own happiness and carve out our own little niche for peace of mind. Ironically, these attitudes give us less freedom and power. Selfishness and materialism erode community and make it less possible to live the life we want. It puts us more out of purpose. Jonah's way seems easier at first, but in the end, we will get thrown overboard and end up in the belly of the whale.



O Lord Hear My Prayer

Ostinato Chorale

em gm am D

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

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of the chorale. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music consists of a repeating rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chord symbols 'em', 'gm', 'am', and 'D' are placed above the top staff. The lyrics 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:' are written below the staves.

gm C f#dim B em gm

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

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of the chorale. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music continues with the repeating rhythmic pattern. Chord symbols 'gm', 'C', 'f#dim', 'B', 'em', and 'gm' are placed above the top staff. The lyrics 'when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O' are written below the staves.

am D em am7 B em

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

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of the chorale. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The music concludes with the repeating rhythmic pattern. Chord symbols 'am', 'D', 'em', 'am7', 'B', and 'em' are placed above the top staff. The lyrics 'Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O' are written below the staves.

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.**

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.



Great Prayers of the Bible

WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYER

Great Prayers of the Bible
WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

Learning from the Masters
HANNAH

Bring dinner - 6 p.m.
Worship - 7 p.m.
In-person & Online

February 25

Grace Lutheran Church



Great Prayers of the Bible
WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

Learning from the Masters
NEHEMIAH

Bring dinner - 6 p.m.
Worship - 7 p.m.
In-person & Online

March 4

Grace Lutheran Church



Great Prayers of the Bible
WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

Learning from the Masters
JONAH

Bring dinner - 6 p.m.
Worship - 7 p.m.
In-person & Online

March 11

Grace Lutheran Church



Great Prayers of the Bible
WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

Learning from the Masters
CORNELIUS

Bring dinner - 6 p.m.
Worship - 7 p.m.
In-person & Online

March 18

Grace Lutheran Church



Great Prayers of the Bible
WEDNESDAY EVENING PRAYERS

Learning from the Masters
JESUS

Bring dinner - 6 p.m.
Worship - 7 p.m.
In-person & Online

March 25

Grace Lutheran Church



Every Wednesday Evening of Lent



Experience - Learn - Practice - Pray



Bring Your Dinner at 6 & Worship at 7