



# MORNING PRAYER

## Thursday / Third week of Easter

God, come to my assistance +

**Lord, make haste to help me.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia!**

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### **Morning Hymn: “Gather Us In”**

*Here in this place new light is streaming. Now is the darkness vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings. Brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken. Gather us in, the blind and the lame. Call to us now and we shall awaken. We shall arise at the sound of our name.*

*We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history. Called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty. Gather us in, the proud and the strong. Give us a heart so meek and so lowly. Give us the courage to enter the song*

*Here we will take the wine and the water. Here we will take the bread of new birth. Here you shall call your sons and your daughters. Call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to drink the wine of compassion. Give us to eat the bread that is you. Nourish us well and teach us to fashion. Lives that are holy and hearts that are true.*

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### **Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

The angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, “Get up and head south on the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, the desert route.” So he got up and set out. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, that is, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury, who had come to Jerusalem to worship, and was returning home. Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to

Philip, “Go and join up with that chariot.” Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” He replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” So he invited Philip to get in and sit with him. This was the Scripture passage he was reading:

Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opened not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who will tell of his posterity? For his life is taken from the earth.

Then the eunuch said to Philip in reply, “I beg you, about whom is the prophet saying this? About himself, or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning with this Scripture passage, he proclaimed Jesus to him. As they traveled along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look, there is water. What is to prevent my being baptized?” Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and he baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, but continued on his way rejoicing. Philip came to Azotus, and went about proclaiming the good news to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

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### **Psalm: Let Your Mercy Be on Us**

(Please repeat refrain after cantor the first time and sing after each verse.)

*Let your mercy be on us, oh God, as we place our trust in you.*

Text: Psalm 33:1, 4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; Marty Haugen ©1987 GIA Publications, Inc; English refrain trans. © 1969, ICEL

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**Antiphon** (*Please repeat after Leader*) The Lord is great in Sion; he is supreme above all peoples. Alleluia.

### **Psalm 98 The Lord our God is holy**

The Lord is great in Sion; he is supreme above all peoples. Alleluia.

L: The Lord is king; the peoples tremble. He is throned on the cherubim; the earth quakes. The Lord is great in Zion.

R: He is supreme over all the peoples. Let them praise his name, so terrible and great, he is holy, full of power.

L: You are a king who loves what is right; you have established equity, justice and right; you have established them in Jacob.

R: Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before Zion, his footstool. He the Lord is holy.

L: Among his priests were Aaron and Moses, among those who invoked his name was Samuel. They invoked the Lord and he answered.

R: To them he spoke in the pillar of cloud. They did his will; they kept the law, which he, the Lord, had given.

L: O Lord our God, you answered them. For them you were a God who forgives; yet you punished all their offences.

R: Exalt the Lord our God; bow down before his holy mountain for the Lord our God is holy.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**Antiphon:** (*all*) The Lord is great in Sion; he is supreme above all peoples. Alleluia.

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### **Responsory**

This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad, alleluia

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### **Gospel: John 6:44-51**

Jesus said to the crowds: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: They shall all be taught by God. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

### **Reflection**

## **Christ, Be Our Light**

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.  
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.*

***Refrain:** Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the  
darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.  
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice. **Refrain***

*Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.  
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. **Refrain***

*Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong. Let  
us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come. **Refrain***

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### **Intercessions**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Kiss of Peace**

### **Closing Prayer**

Almighty and ever-living God, make our hearts more open to your love in these days of Eastertide, when you have made known to us the depth of that love. You have rescued us from the darkness of error: make us adhere more firmly to the teachings of your truth. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### **Dismissal**

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

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