MORNING PRAYER

Wednesday / 10th Week in Ordinary Time

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!

Morning Hymn: "Fresh As The Morning"

God of the Bible, God in the Gospel, hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come, you are our center, daylight or darkness, freedom or prison you are our home.

Refrain: *Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, You do not change. Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise, God always faithful, You do not change.*

God in our struggles, God in our hunger, suffering with us, taking our part, still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit, feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. Refrain

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Reading: Kings 18:20-39

Ahab sent to all the children of Israel and had the prophets assemble on Mount Carmel. Elijah appealed to all the people and said, "How long will you straddle the issue? If the Lord is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him." The people, however, did not answer him. So Elijah said to the people, "I am the only surviving prophet of the Lord, and there are four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. Give us two young bulls. Let them choose one, cut it into pieces, and place it on the wood, but start no fire. I shall prepare the other and place it on the wood, but shall start no fire. You shall call on your gods, and I will call on the Lord. The God who answers with fire is God." All the people answered, "Agreed!"

Elijah then said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one young bull and prepare it first, for there are more of you. Call upon your gods, but do not start the fire.” Taking the young bull that was turned over to them, they prepared it and called on Baal from morning to noon, saying, “Answer us, Baal!” But there was no sound, and no one answering. And they hopped around the altar they had prepared. When it was noon, Elijah taunted them: “Call louder, for he is a god and may be meditating, or may have retired, or may be on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” They called out louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until blood gushed over them. Noon passed and they remained in a prophetic state until the time for offering sacrifice. But there was not a sound; no one answered, and no one was listening.

Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” When the people had done so, he repaired the altar of the Lord that had been destroyed. He took twelve stones, for the number of tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the Lord had said, “Your name shall be Israel.” He built an altar in honor of the Lord with the stones, and made a trench around the altar large enough for two measures of grain. When he had arranged the wood, he cut up the young bull and laid it on the wood. “Fill four jars with water,” he said, “and pour it over the burnt offering and over the wood.” “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he said, and they did it a third time. The water flowed around the altar, and the trench was filled with the water.

At the time for offering sacrifice, the prophet Elijah came forward and said, “Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things by your command. Answer me, Lord! Answer me, that this people may know that you, Lord, are God and that you have brought them back to their senses.” The Lord’s fire came down and consumed the burnt offering, wood, stones, and dust, and it lapped up the water in the trench. Seeing this, all the people fell prostrate and said, “The Lord is God! The Lord is God!”

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 85: Lord Let Us See Your Kindness

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

Lord, let us see your kindness. Lord, let us see your kindness.

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Antiphon (*Please repeat after Leader*) Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Psalm 16

L: Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the Lord, "My Lord are you."

R: They multiply their sorrows who court other gods.

L: Blood libations to them I will not pour out, nor will I take their names upon my lips.

R: O Lord, my allotted portion and cup, you it is who hold fast my lot.

L: I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.

R: You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.

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*) Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Responsory

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

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

We Are the Light of the World

Blessed are they who are poor in spirit, Theirs is the kingdom of God.
Bless us, O Lord, make us poor in spirit; Bless us, O Lord, our God

REFRAIN: *We are the light of the world; may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.*

Blessed are they who are meek and humble, They will inherit the earth
Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble; Bless us, O Lord, our God
REFRAIN

Blessed are they who will mourn in sorrow, They will be comforted Bless us, O Lord, when we share their sorrow; Bless us, O Lord, our God
REFRAIN

Blessed are they who bring peace among us, They are the children of God
Bless us, O Lord, may your peace be with us; Bless us, O Lord, our God
REFRAIN... And give glory to God. (repeat)

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Intercessions

Lord's Prayer

Kiss of Peace

Closing Prayer

O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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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