

## Morning Prayer – March 22

*Families or small groups might gather, taking turns serving as “One” and others responding with words in bold print, or the entire service is said by one person, knowing that others are praying in the same way in their own locations.*

*A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.*

One Lord, open our lips

All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

One O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

One The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

All O come, let us worship.

*Jubilate - Psalm 100 (Inclusive Language Psalter)*

One Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

All serve the Lord with gladness and come into the divine presence with a song.

One Know this: the Lord, the Lord, is God;

All the One made us and to whom we belong;  
we are God’s people, the sheep of God’s pasture.

One Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving;

All go into these courts with praise;  
give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.

One For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting;

All and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

One The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

All O come, let us worship.

## The Proclamation of the Word

**1 Samuel 16:1-13** *New Revised Standard Version*

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.’ Samuel said, ‘How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.’ And the Lord said, ‘Take a heifer with you, and say, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.” Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.’ Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, ‘Do you come peaceably?’ He said, ‘Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.’ And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel.

He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.      **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 95** (*Inclusive Language Psalter*)

One    The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

All            **You make me lie down in green pastures \*  
                  and lead me beside still waters.**

One    You revive my soul

All            **and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.**

One    Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;

All            **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

One    You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

All            **you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

One    Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

All            **and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

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

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

### **Ephesians 5:8-14** *New Revised Standard Version*

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

'Sleeper, awake!

  Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.'

One    The word of the Lord.

All    **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.*

One The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (9:1-41)

All Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'

They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

One The Gospel of Christ

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

*You might close your eyes while you reflect on this story. After even a short time of not-seeing what is it like to open them?*

*Did anything stand out for you at you while you heard it this time?*

*What does this story have to say to you today?*

### Affirmation of Faith

All Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

### Intercessions and Thanksgivings

One In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

All For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

One For this community, our country, and the world;

All For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

One For the just and proper use of your creation;

All For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

One For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

One For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

One For +Todd our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

All For all who serve God in the world.

One For our own needs and those of others.

*Silence. People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord;

All For your mercy is great.

One We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence. people may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God;

All And praise your name for ever and ever.

One We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence. The people may name their remembered dead*

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

All Who put their trust in you.

One We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence for reflection.*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;

All in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

One Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

### Collect for the Third Sunday in Lent

One Creator and Healer, you work your Sabbath will in the chaos of our life: teach us the insight that gives true judgement and praises you wherever you are found, making miracles from spit and mud; through Jesus Christ, the Son of earth.

All Amen.

*Alternative Collects: Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.*

### Collect for Ash Wednesday

One Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

One Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

One Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

One The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be  
with us all evermore.

All Amen.

*If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now*

*This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada by The Rev'd Naomi Miller.*

*And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION Prepared by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee*

*Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>*

*The Psalms are drawn from the Inclusive Language Psalter, commended for use by the Council of General Synod, March 2019 and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>*