

Morning Prayer and Bible Study, Friday, 29 June

Liturgist: Bishop Dr Jensen Seyenkulo, Lutheran Church in Liberia

We open with the sound of a gong or singing bowl

Psalm 18:

God my friend,
You give me strength.

God, my shield, my help,
You watch over me.

You bring me out into a broad place
Because you delight in me.

It is you who light my lamp.
You light up my darkness.

By you, God, I can leap over a wall.
For this I will extol you in the morning and in the evening, now and always. Amen.

We sing (in German)

Joachim Neander 1680, Germany

1. Lo - be den Her - ren den mäch - ti - gen Kö - nig der Eh - ren; lob ihn, o
1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion! O my soul,

See - le ver - eint mit den himm - li - schen Chö - ren. Kom - met zu -
praise - him for - eint he mit is your health and - sal - va - tion! Let - all who -

hauf; Psal - ter und Har - fe, wacht auf. Las - set den Lob - ge - sang hö - ren.
hear, now to his tem - ple draw near; join - ing in glad ad - o - a - tion!

2. Lobe den Herren, der alles so herrlich regieret,
der dich auf Adellers Fittichen sicher geführet,
der dich erhält, wie es dir selber gefällt.
Hast du nicht dieses verspüret?

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3. Lobe den Herren, der künstlich und fein dich bereitet,
der dir Gesundheit verliehen, dich freundlich geleitet.
In wieviel Not hat nicht der gnädige Gott
über dir Flügel gebreitet!

3. Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.

4. Lobe den Herren, was in mir ist, lobe den Namen.
Lob ihn mit allen, die seine Verheißung bekamen.
Er ist dein Licht; Seele, vergiß es ja nicht.
Lob ihn in Ewigkeit. Amen.

4. Praise to the Lord! Oh let all that is in me adore him.
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him.
Catherine Winkworth adp. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh

Let us pray,

We are grateful for the gift of each body gathered here this morning. We give you thanks for the gifts that you give, and the many ways in which we receive them. Today we thank you for sight. By the light of a star you revealed your presence to those who watched and wondered. By the image of suffering on the cross, you revealed your will for life. By the diversity of the land and seas and the life that moves upon it, you reveal the truth in beauty. We lament the forces that seek uniformity, that stifle creativity, and reject what is different. In our communion, help us to use the gifts of our art, cultures, music and lifestyles to show the world the hope and life giving beauty of reconciled diversity.

God, you fill your earth with beauty;
There is so much we can see —
Banners, art, and stained glass windows,
Sculpture, quilt, and tapestry.
You give art to lift our spirits;
You help artists do their best.
In their work, we see your goodness.
Through their art, our lives are blest.

Bible reading and study

Archbishop Dr Antje Jackelén, Church of Sweden

Genesis 33: 1-11

Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother. But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor with my lord." But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." Jacob said, "No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God—since you have received me with such favor. Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want." So he urged him, and he took it.

Group Discussions

Prayers

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

We thank you, God, for the night's rest, for the hours of sleep and dream.
Open our minds and hearts to all we meet today.

We are one with each other.

Show us the people to serve and the work we are to do.

We cannot live by ourselves.

God, be near us and lift us up.

Walk with us,

Step by step, hour by hour.

We pray to God, our light and salvation, in the words Jesus taught us, each in our own language.

Our Father in heaven...

We sing (in any language)

Jacques Berthier: France

El Se - nyor és la me - va for - ça, el Se - nyor el meu cant. Ell m'ha es - tat la sal - va - ci -
In the Lord I'll be ev - er thank - ful, in the Lord I will re - jice! Look to God, do not be a -
O ma joie et mon es - pé - ran - ce le Sei - gneur est mon chant. C'est de lui que vient le par -

ó. En ell con - fi - o i no tinc por, en ell con - fi - o i no tinc por.
fraid, lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic - es, the Lord is near.
don. En lui j'es - pé - re, je ne crains rien. En lui j'es - pé - re, je ne crains rien.

Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé-Communauté, France

Gracious God, we thank You, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, that You kept us safe from all evil and danger last night. Save us, we pray, today as well, from every evil and sin, so that all we do and the way that we live will please you. We put ourselves in your care, body and soul and all that we have. Let Your holy Angels be with us, so that the evil one will not gain power over us. Amen.

Benediction and sending

May the God of creation, incarnation and redemption,
sharpen our senses

so that we may continue to discern God's loving presence,
freely receive

the blessings of life,
and freely share

the joy of God's reconciling love.

Thanks be to God!