

Morning Prayer/Stauffer Chapel
March 26, 2007

Call to Worship

We receive this day with gladness.
It is the day the Lord has made.
We come into his presence with thankful hearts
for the joy of this new day and the blessings of it.

Invocation

Gracious God, loving Father, we greet you this morning with joy and thanksgiving. We rejoice in your generous goodness, O God, and we celebrate your gifts to us this day, for you have shown your love in giving Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world and you have poured your spirit out upon all flesh. We are bold to claim for others your promises of new life in Jesus Christ as we claim them for ourselves.

We feel your presence in this sacred place of prayer and we open our hearts to your teaching and your leading throughout this day. As the sun swings higher, so may our lives rise to you in the active praise of this day's duties. Show us what you would have us do. Let our ears be attentive to your Word and our hearts responsive to the opportunities you grant us to bear one another's burdens in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

Morning Psalms:

The heavens are telling the glory of God
And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
In the day we give glory to God,
And at night we remember God's love. (Ps 19:1,2)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
And raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms. (Ps 95:1)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord with gladness;
Come into God's presence with singing.
Give thanks, and bless God's holy name (Ps. 100: 1,2,4)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And do not forget all God's benefits. (Ps. 103: 1,2)

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
From where will my help come?

My help comes from the Lord
Who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121: 1,2)

Prayer

We give thanks to you, O God, for your faithfulness in providing for us this new day.
We thank you, O God.

We praise you, O God, for making all things new every morning and we are grateful that your mercies never come to an end.
We thank you, O God.

God of mercy, we give thanks that you lift up the lowly and heal those who are sick, that you see our need and you provide.
We thank you, O God.

May our lives reflect the gratitude of our hearts and may we live this day in joy and praise. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

Reading (Matt. 6:19-21, 31-34)

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? The whole world strives after these things. But set your hearts and your minds on God's kingdom and God's righteousness first, and all the rest will come to you as well. So don't be anxious about tomorrow for tomorrow can look after itself.

Prayer: Please sing the refrain twice at each pause in the prayer.

Dear God, our world is anxious and troubled about many things. We confess the anxiety of our own hearts. We turn to you at this morning hour and in the quietude of this place and ask that you hush our spirits into peace.

Refrain: In the name of God, ---Peace.

We seek the peace that healing affords. We seek the peace that forgiveness brings. We seek the peace reconciliation creates. We seek the peace that love imparts. We seek the peace that you alone can give.

Refrain: In the name of God, ---Peace.

We seek wisdom and discernment as we turn to the responsibilities that lie before us today. May we reflect your spirit in all that we do. We seek your way, O God. Teach us

humility in all our ways, kindness in all our dealings with each other, and to love as you have loved us.

Refrain: In the name of God, ---Peace.

We welcome all who have come as our guests today, as you have welcomed and received us in this morning hour. Grant us a spirit of hospitality and humility and may your Holy Spirit guide all that we say and do so that our time together might bear fruit.

Refrain: In the name of God, ---Peace.

We seek your will, O God, this day. We seek truth in our inmost beings, peace in our hearts, and goodwill toward all.

In the name of God, ---Peace.

Let us pray as our Lord taught us:

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.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

You are dismissed. Go in Peace.