

## **An Order for Morning Prayer**

### **Invitation to Prayer**

Look to this day!

*For it is life, the very life of life.*

In today's brief course lie all the truths and realities of your life:

The bliss of growth,

The glory of action,

The splendor of beauty;

*For yesterday is but a dream,*

*And tomorrow is only a vision;*

But today, well lived, makes every yesterday

A dream of happiness

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

*Look well, therefore, to this day.*

(SLT 419, adapted)

### **⇒ Chalice Lighting**

*(A worship leader or community member shall light the chalice.)*

A) Compassion is the teaching of this community,  
and reconciliation its guide.

*In this we bind ourselves to one another:*

*to dwell together in peace,*

*to seek the truth in love,*

*and to serve the stranger along our path,*

*So that all shall grow into harmony.*

(SLT 471/473, adapted)

B) Come into the circle of love and justice.

Come into the community of compassion, reconciliation, and wholeness.

*Come and you shall know peace and joy.*

(SLT 418, adapted)

May the light we now kindle

Inspire us to use our powers

*to heal and not to harm,*

*to help and not to hinder,*

*to bless and not to curse,*

*To serve you, Spirit of freedom.*

(SLT 453)

## ◄ Morning Song

“Morning Has Come” (*Singing the Living Tradition* #397)

*Morning has come.  
Night is away.  
Rise with the sun  
and welcome the day.*

## ✧ Reading from Wisdom Literature

(A reading from SLT 595 to 614, traditional wisdom literature, or similar, according to the season.)

## ◄ Song of Community

“From You I Receive” (*Singing the Living Tradition* #402)

*From you I receive,  
to you I give,  
together we share,  
and from this we live.*

## ✧ Reading from the Neighbor Tradition

(A reading from SLT 615 to 644, the Gospels, or similar, according to the season.)

## ➞ Passing of the Peace

*(The community exchanges signs and gestures of peace and welcome.)*

May we find our joy and strength  
not in the strident call to arms,  
*but in stretching out our arms to grasp our fellow creatures  
in the striving for justice and truth.* (SLT 507, adapted)

## ✧ The Community Prays

Prayer for Peace

It is eternity now.  
We are in the midst of it.  
*It is all about us, in the sunshine;*  
*We are in it, as the butterfly in the light-laden air.*  
Nothing has to come.  
It is now.  
*Now is eternity,*  
*Now is the immortal life.*

### **Prayer for Grace**

*May we be bold participants,*  
rather than a timid saints in waiting,  
*In the difficult ordinariness of now;*  
*To exercise the authority of honesty,*  
rather than to defer to power,  
or deceive to get it;  
*To influence someone for justice,*  
rather than impress anyone for gain;  
*And, by grace, to find treasure of joy, of friendship, of peace*  
*Hidden in the fields of the daily we are given to plow.* (LP 9, Ted Loder, adapted)

### **Prayer for Leadership That Serves**

May those we work with today grow as persons;  
*may they, while being served,*  
*become healthier, wiser, freer,*  
*may they grow more autonomous, more self-reliant,*  
*more likely themselves to serve others.*  
And may the least among us benefit from our work today,  
or, at least, not be further deprived. (Robert Greenleaf, "The Servant as Leader," adapted)

### **Prayer for Work That Is Real**

May we work with people who merge into the task,  
*who go into the fields to harvest*  
*and work in a row and pass the bags along,*  
Who stand in the line and haul in their places,  
*who are neither armchair quarterbacks nor complacent bench warmers,*  
*but move in a common rhythm when the food must come in*  
*or the fire be put out.*  
The work of the world is common as mud.  
Botched, it smears the hands, crumbles to dust.  
*But the thing worth doing well has a shape that satisfied, clean and evident.*

Ancient Greek jugs for wine or oil, old Hopi vases that held corn,  
are put in museums, but you know they were made to be used.

*The pitcher cries for water to carry  
and a person for work that is real.* (SLT 567, adapted)

### **Prayer for Humanity**

Spirit of Community, in which we share and find strength and common purpose,  
We turn our minds and hearts toward one another  
Seeking to bring into our circle of compassion all those who need our love and support:  
those who are ill,  
those who are in pain, whether in body or spirit,  
those who are lonely,  
and those who have been wronged.

*(Here the community may speak the names of those to be remembered.)*

We are a part of a web of life  
that makes us one with all humanity,  
one with all the universe.

*We are grateful for the miracle of consciousness that we share,  
the miracle that gives us the power  
to remember, to love, to care.* (SLT 501, adapted)

### **Giving of Thanks**

For the expanding grandeur of Creation,  
worlds known and unknown,  
galaxies beyond galaxies,  
filling us with awe and challenging our imaginations:  
*We give thanks this day.*

For this fragile earth,  
its times and tides,  
its sunsets and seasons:  
*We give thanks this day.*

For the joy of human life,  
its wonders and surprises,  
its hopes and achievements:  
*We give thanks this day.*

For our human community,  
our common past and future hope,  
our oneness transcending all separation,  
our capacity to work for peace and justice  
in the midst of hostility and oppression:  
*We give thanks this day.*

For high hopes and noble causes,  
for faith without fanaticism,  
for understanding of views not shared:  
*We give thanks this day.*

For all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world,  
who have lived so that others might live in dignity and freedom:  
*We give thanks this day.*

For human liberty and sacred rites;  
for opportunities to change and grow, to affirm and choose:  
*We give thanks this day.*  
*May we live not by our fears but by our hopes,*  
*not by our words but by our deeds.* (SLT 512, adapted)

### ◀ **Hymn of Gentle Anger**

“We Are a Gentle Angry People” (*Singing the Living Tradition* #170)

*We are a gentle, angry people*  
*and we are singing, singing for our lives.* (repeat once)

*We are a justice seeking people...*  
*We are young and old together...*  
*We are a land of many colors...*  
*We are gay and straight together...*  
*We are a gentle, loving people...*

### ↻ **Shared Silence**

Gentle us, Silent One,  
into an unclenched moment,  
a deep breath,  
a letting go of heavy experiences,  
of shriveling anxieties,

of dead certainties,  
that, softened by the silence,  
surrounded by the light,  
and open to the mystery,  
We may be found by wholeness,  
upheld by the unfathomable,  
entranced by the simple,  
and filled with the joy that is you. (LP 356, Ted Loder, adapted)

## ➤ Reflections

(By a worship leader and/or the community, as appropriate for the season and occasion.)

## ◀ Song of...

### Closing Blessing

A) Hear us, four corners of the world, relatives we are!  
Give us the strength to walk the soft earth.  
Give us the eyes to see and the strength to understand.  
Look upon these our faces, of children without number,  
and with children in our arms,  
That we may face the winds  
and walk the good road to the day of quiet. (SLT 495/LP 43, Black Elk, adapted)

B) May the courage of the early morning's dawning,  
the strength of the eternal hills,  
the peace of the evening's ending,  
and the love of God,  
be in our hearts. (SLT 677, adapted)

*Blessed be.*