

Service for Noonday March 24, 2020

Hello and welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Altus, Oklahoma. We will use the service for Noonday found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 103. There is also a link to this document on main page of our website: stpauls-altus.org. If you have a prayer request or desire to give thanks please type them in during the service, everyone will be able to see them.

Before we begin let us pause in silence

O God, make speed to save us.

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.

Let us read Psalm 126 found on page 105, together in unison (read from prayer book)

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.

The Reading of the Lesson

A reading from **Matthew 16:13-20**

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

¹⁴ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

¹⁵ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter,^[a] and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades^[b] will not overcome it.

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be^[c] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[d] loosed in heaven."

²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Commentary by Evan Morgan

Jackson dreamed of becoming a US Navy Seal from early childhood—an ambition that led to years of physical discipline and self-sacrifice. He eventually faced grueling tests of strength and endurance including what’s referred to by trainees as “hell week.”

Jackson was physically unable to complete the exhaustive training, and reluctantly rang a bell to inform the commander and other trainees of his choice to leave the program. For most, this would feel like failure. But in spite of the extreme disappointment, Jackson was later able to see his military failure as preparation for his life’s work.

The apostle Peter experienced his own form of failure. He boldly proclaimed that he would remain loyal to Jesus even to prison or death ([Luke 22:33](#)). Yet later he wept bitterly after he denied that he knew Jesus (vv. 60–62). But God had plans beyond his failure. Prior to Peter’s denial, Jesus informed him, “I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” ([Matthew 16:18](#); see also [Luke 22:31–32](#)).

Are you struggling with a failure causing you to feel unworthy or unqualified to move on? Don’t let the ringing bell of failure cause you to miss God’s greater purposes for you.

Time of reflection

The Prayers

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord, hear our prayer;
And let our cry come to you.
Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family, St. Paul's. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Lord we ask for your blessing and guidance especially for our priest, Mother Suzanne.

Heavenly Father, Giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, those known and unknown to us, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their distress and have sure knowledge of your loving care through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For those we Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Those Who Live Alone

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Pray for protection for people around the world who are vulnerable and being persecuted; pray for all law enforcement officers and firefighters. Pray for our country, our state, for our city of Altus; pray for our President and other leaders that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

We pray for The Episcopal Church, for our Presiding Bishop Michael, for our own Bishop Ed and Debbie, and for our Bishop Coadjutor, Poulson Reed and his family.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Ending

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.