



A Pilgrim’s Prayer at Midday

Opening: (Psalm 70:1)

Oh God, come to my assistance.
Oh Lord, make haste to help me!
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit — world without end. Amen

Scripture: (John 12:1-8 NRSV)

John 12:1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the



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common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

Hymn: Wind - PHL

Wind. The veil of heaven here is thin.
So blow into me, let the Spirit renew me.
Fill the sails of my heart. Wind.

Wind. In times of *tôhû wabôhû**,
Come and rest upon the waters bringing life to your sons and daughters.
Be our God within the storms. Wind.

Chorus: So descend like a dove and alight as a fire,
touch my weary heart, lift my spirit higher.
Let the breezes blow, and the breath bring life.
Let the Spirit grow and direct my life,
and restore me by your love. Wind.

Wind. The prophet called upon the Wind,
and the bones came together to the glory of God forever,
in the valley of dry bones. Wind.

Wind. Disciples in Jerusalem.
They were touched with power, and the church was born that hour.
Where two or more are gathered. Wind.

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Psalm 126 †



When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.
Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping,
carrying the seed,
will come again with joy,
shouldering their sheaves.

Praise the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit,
Now and forever!
The God who is, who was, and who is to come
At the end of the ages.

Midday Collect (Psalm 130; James 3:10; Philippians 3:13)

Merciful Lord, I pause at mid-day in the middle of the week to take stock, make an accounting, and offer my prayers of confession. If you Lord were to keep a record of my sin, I realize that I could not stand before you. But I am glad that with you there is forgiveness, and I worship you in awe of your amazing grace. Hear now my prayers of confession. Let your ears be attentive to my deepest cries. I cry out to you to save me from:

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† a mouth that professes faith — but then curses my neighbor . . . Lord in your mercy - hear my prayer.

† mindless consumerism which ensures that I buy things I don’t need and stay perpetually indebted to everyone but you . . . Lord in your mercy - hear my prayer.

† self-indulgent excesses which promise me happiness, but which fail to deliver . . . Lord in your mercy - hear my prayer.

† unhealthy relationships which wear me down and encourage my most destructive habits and attitudes . . . Lord in your mercy - hear my prayer.

Now Lord, I give thanks that with you there is abiding, tenacious love and wondrous power to redeem. Set me free by your grace to forget what lies behind and press on toward the high calling I have to follow my Lord, Jesus Christ. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Final Blessing (Luke 11:4; Matt. 6:13; Psalm 136.)

Lord, save me from the time of trial,
and deliver me from evil.
I Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

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