

115th Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas
McAllen, Texas

Prayers at the Beginning of the Morning Session
Friday, February 22, 2019 8:45 a.m.

Psalm 63:1-8 (in unison)

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;*
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,*
that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself,*
my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live*
and lift up my hands in your Name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,*
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed,*
and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper,*
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you;*
your right hand holds me fast.

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.*

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter (4:7-11)

Be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers.
Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude
of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good
stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift
each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the

very word of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

A Prayer for the Diocese

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: hear our prayers for this diocesan family gathered here. Awaken our hearts, and kindle new hope, that we might be ready to serve you this day. 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.*

A Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for This Council

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for bringing us in safety to this new day, and we pray that we may be attentive to your Spirit moving among us, listening for your Word in the midst of all the words we will hear and speak today, seeking not our own wants but your Kingdom and its righteousness. Guide and direct all our deliberations; give us grace, wisdom and courage to follow your Son Jesus where he leads. This we pray in his holy Name. *Amen.*

I invite you to offer your prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, either silently or aloud...

And now, gathering up all our desires and petitions, let us pray as our Savior Christ has taught us: *Our Father...*

Let us bless the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*