

115th Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

San Marcos, Texas

February 23, 2019

## **Morning Devotions**

Saturday, February 23

9:00 a.m.

### Opening Sentences

*Leader:* This day belongs to the LORD!

*People:* Let's celebrate and be glad today.

### A Portion of Psalm 119 (CEV)

Our LORD, you bless everyone who lives right and obeys your Law.

**You bless those who follow your commands from deep in their hearts.**

Thinking about your commands will keep me from doing foolish things.

**I will do right and praise you by learning to respect your perfect laws.**

Young people can live a clean life by obeying your word.

**With my own mouth, I tell others the laws that you have spoken.**

Obedying your instruction brings as much happiness as being rich.

**I will study your teachings and follow your footsteps.**

**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.**

### An Ember Day collect for all Christians in our callings

Almighty and everlasting God, by your Spirit govern all your faithful people and make us holy. We pray that you will receive our heartfelt prayers for all members of your holy Church. Grant that as we live out our calling and exercise our ministry, we passionately and patiently serve you and our neighbors; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Collect for Education

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Spirit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### A Collect for Council

O Lord our God, as we begin the final hours of this diocesan Council, we pray that your Holy Spirit might stir us up. Open our eyes and ears, and awaken hope, that we might do the work of the day with joy and expectation. Give us grace to wait patiently upon you in the tremendous and the tedious, in the miraculous and the mundane, in the daring and the daunting. In the words we hear, may we hear your voice; in the ministries we see, may we glimpse your kingdom; in the dreams and challenges presented, may we hear you calling us to come and follow. And as we commission and send out these young disciples, may our hearts be full of gratitude for their example of joyful service, and for the calling we all share in your Son Jesus Christ. And it's in his Name we pray. ***Amen.***

### A Reading from Mark

One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?"

Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!"

When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom."

(The Message)

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

