

FROM PSALM 51

BCP p. 137

Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

MATTHEW 11: 25-30

THE MESSAGE (MSG)

²⁵⁻²⁶ Abruptly Jesus broke into prayer: “Thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth. You’ve concealed your ways from sophisticates and know-it-alls, but spelled them out clearly to ordinary people. Yes, Father, that’s the way you like to work.”

²⁷ Jesus resumed talking to the people, but now tenderly. “The Father has given me all these things to do and say. This is a unique Father-Son operation, coming out of Father and Son intimacies and knowledge. No one knows the Son the way the Father does, nor the Father the way the Son does. But I’m not keeping it to myself; I’m ready to go over it line by line with anyone willing to listen.

²⁸⁻³⁰ “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

THE HOMILY

Cheryl Smith, Director of Children & Family Ministries
(A period of silence may follow.)

THE HAND PRAYER

Open my ears to hear your word
Open my eyes to see your ways
Open my hands to show your love
Open my mouth to sing your praise
Open my heart to love you more.
Amen

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.

THE COLLECT

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Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

Deep peace to you, my child, deep peace.
Peace in your body, peace in your mind, peace in your spirit.
As you breathe in deeply, breathe in peace.
May the worries in your mind seem far away.
May you know God's love for you, and your family's love too.
Deep, deep peace to you, my child, deep peace.
(Excerpt from Prayers for Faithful Families by Traci Smith)