



# St. Andrew's

Episcopal Church

## Morning Prayer

Wednesday, September 20th

### Psalm 119:97-120

97 Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

**98 Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is always with me.**

99 I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees are my meditation.

**100 I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.**

101 I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

**102 I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.**

103 How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

**104 Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.**

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

**106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances.**

107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

**108 Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.**

109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

**110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.**

111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

**112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.**

113 I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.

**114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.**

115 Go away from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.

**116 Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope.**

117 Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually.

**118 You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain.**

119 All the wicked of the earth I count as dross; therefore I love your decrees.

**120 My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.**

### A reading from the Second Book of Kings (2 Kings 6:1-23)

Now the company of prophets said to Elisha, "As you see, the place where we live under your charge is too small for us. Let us go to the Jordan, and let us collect logs there, one for each of us, and build a place there for us to live." He answered, "Do so." Then one of them said, "Please come with your servants." And he answered, "I will." So he went with them. When they came to the Jordan, they cut down trees. But as one was felling a log, his ax head fell into the water; he cried out, "Alas, master! It was borrowed." Then the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, he cut off a

stick and threw it in there and made the iron float. He said, "Pick it up." So he reached out his hand and took it.

Once when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, he took counsel with his officers. He said, "At such and such a place shall be my camp." But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Take care not to pass this place, for the Arameans are going down there." The king of Israel sent word to the place of which the man of God spoke. More than once or twice he warned a place so that it was on the alert.

The mind of the king of Aram was greatly perturbed because of this; he called his officers and said to them, "Now tell me: Who among us is betraying us to the king of Israel?" Then one of his officers said, "No one, my lord king. It is Elisha, the prophet in Israel, who tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedchamber." He said, "Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him." He was told, "He is in Dothan." So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night and surrounded the city.

When an attendant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, "Alas, master! What shall we do?" He replied, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them." Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. When the Arameans came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord and said, "Strike this people, please, with blindness." So he struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked. Elisha said to them, "This is not the way, and this is not the city; follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom you seek." And he led them to Samaria.

As soon as they entered Samaria, Elisha said, "O Lord, open the eyes of these men so that they may see." The Lord opened their eyes, and they saw that

they were inside Samaria. When the king of Israel saw them he said to Elisha, "Father, shall I strike them? Shall I strike them?" He answered, "No! Would you strike those whom you have taken captive with your sword and with your bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink, and let them go to their master." So he prepared for them a great feast; after they ate and drank, he sent them on their way, and they went to their master. And the Arameans no longer came raiding into the land of Israel.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **A reading from the Gospel of Matthew** *(Matthew 5:38-48)*

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well, and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**