

Readings for Sight Loss Sunday 2021: Is Seeing Believing?

Contents

General Notes.....	3
New Revised Standard Version (NRSVA)	7
Authorised/King James Version (AV/KJV)	17
New International Version—UK (NIVUK)	27
Good News Bible/Today's English Version (GNB/GNT)....	37
The Message (MSG)	47
Psalters	57

General Notes

This document offers a complete set of readings in keeping with the **REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY**:

- **Old Testament: 2 Kings 6:8-22**
- **Psalm: 40**
- **New Testament (Epistle):
1 Corinthians 12:4-11**
- **Gospel: Mark 10:46-52**

All of the texts are offered in the following translations:

- **New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised) (NRSVA), for use in churches which follow the RCL or its equivalents (e.g. COMMON WORSHIP)**

- **Authorised/King James Version (AV/KJV)**
- **New International Version—UK (NIVUK)**
- **Good News Bible/Today's English Version (GNB/GNT)**
- **The Message (MSG)**

These translations have been chosen with the aim of matching those used in the majority of acts of public worship, thus enabling people with sight loss to read the texts aloud in a service for Sight Loss Sunday.

In addition, the psalm is offered from the following psalters:

- **Common Worship (including the prayer and refrain from Daily Prayer)**
- **The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)**

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New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised) (NRSVA)

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2 Kings 6:8-22 (NRSVA)

The Aramean Attack Is Thwarted

8 Once when the king of Aram was at
war with Israel, he took counsel with
his officers. He said, “At such and such
9 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, because the Arameans are going
10 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 such a place so that it was on the alert.

11 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 sides with
12 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
13 you speak in your bedchamber.” He said, “Go and find where he is; I will send and seize him.” He was told, “He
14 is in Dothan.” So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city.

15 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?”

16 He replied, “Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are

17 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

18 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

19 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.

20 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

21 that they were inside Samaria. When the king of Israel saw them he said to Elisha, “Father, shall I kill them? Shall

22 I kill them?” He answered, “No! Did you capture with your sword and your

bow those whom you want to kill? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink; and let them go to their master.”

Psalm 40 (NRSVA)

Thanksgiving for Deliverance and
Prayer for Help

To the leader. Of David. A Psalm.

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.
- 4 Happy are those who make the Lord their trust, who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.

- 5** You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts towards us; none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.
- 6** Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.
- 7** Then I said, “Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
- 8** “I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”
- 9** I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.
- 10** I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and

your faithfulness from the great congregation.

- 11 Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.**
- 12 For evils have encompassed me without number; my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me.**
- 13 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.**
- 14 Let all those be put to shame and confusion who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonour who desire my hurt.**
- 15 Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, “Aha, Aha!”**
- 16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love**

your salvation say continually, “Great is the Lord!”

17 As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NRSVA)

Spiritual Gifts [or Spiritual Persons]

**4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but
5 the same Spirit; and there are
varieties of services, but the same
6 Lord; and there are varieties of
activities, but it is the same God who
7 activates all of them in everyone. To
each is given the manifestation of the
8 Spirit for the common good. To one is
given through the Spirit the utterance
of wisdom, and to another the
utterance of knowledge according to
9 the same Spirit, to another faith by
the same Spirit, to another gifts of
10 healing by the one Spirit, to another**

the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation
11 of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Mark 10:46-52 (NRSVA)

The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by
47 the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David,
48 have mercy on me!” Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David,
49 have mercy on me!” Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him,

“Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang
51 up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said
to him, “What do you want me to do for
you?” The blind man said to him, “My
52 teacher, let me see again.” Jesus said
to him, “Go; your faith has made you
well.” Immediately he regained his
sight and followed him on the way.

Authorised/King James Version (AV/KJV)

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2 Kings 6:8-22 (AV/KJV)

- 8** Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such
- 9** a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the
- 10** Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once

- 11 nor twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel?
- 12 And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in
- 13 thy bedchamber. And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying,
- 14 Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.
- 15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my
- 16 master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be

17 with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about

18 Elisha. And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the Lord, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of

19 Elisha. And Elisha said unto them, This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek. But he led them to Samaria.

20 And it came to pass, when they were come into Samaria, that Elisha said, Lord, open the eyes of these men, that they may see. And the Lord opened their eyes, and they saw; and, behold, they were in the midst of Samaria.

21 And the king of Israel said unto Elisha, when he saw them, My father,

shall I smite them? shall I smite them?
22 And he answered, Thou shalt not smite them: wouldest thou smite those whom thou hast taken captive with thy sword and with thy bow? set bread and water before them, that they may eat and drink, and go to their master.

Psalm 40 (AV/KJV)

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.
- 2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.
- 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.
- 4 Blessed is that man that maketh the Lord his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

- 5** Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.
- 6** Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.
- 7** Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,
- 8** I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.
- 9** I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest.
- 10** I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have

not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

- 11 Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.
- 12 For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.
- 13 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me: O Lord, make haste to help me.
- 14 Let them be ashamed and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.
- 15 Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me, Aha, aha.
- 16 Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love

thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified.

17 But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (AV/KJV)

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but
5 the same Spirit. And there are
differences of administrations, but the
6 same Lord. And there are diversities
of operations, but it is the same God
7 which worketh all in all. But the
manifestation of the Spirit is given to
8 every man to profit withal. For to one
is given by the Spirit the word of
wisdom; to another the word of
9 knowledge by the same Spirit; To
another faith by the same Spirit; to
another the gifts of healing by the
10 same Spirit; To another the working
of miracles; to another prophecy; to
another discerning of spirits; to

another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Mark 10:46-52 (AV/KJV)

46 And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by
47 the highway side begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou son of David,
49 have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he
50 calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus.

51 And Jesus answered and said unto him, What wilt thou that I should do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I might receive my

52 sight. And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

New International Version—UK (NIVUK)

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2 Kings 6:8-22 (NIVUK)

Elisha traps blinded Arameans

**8 Now the king of Aram was at war
with Israel. After conferring with his
officers, he said, “I will set up my camp
in such and such a place.”**

**9 The man of God sent word to the king
of Israel: “Beware of passing that
place, because the Arameans are going
10 down there.” So the king of Israel
checked on the place indicated by the
man of God. Time and again Elisha
warned the king, so that he was on his
guard in such places.**

- 11 This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Tell me! Which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?”
- 12 “None of us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.”
- 13 “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so that I can send men and capture him.” The report came back:
- 14 “He is in Dothan.” Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.
- 15 When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.

- 16** “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”
- 17** And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.
- 18** As the enemy came down towards him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, “Strike this army with blindness.” So he struck them with blindness, as Elisha had asked.
- 19** Elisha told them, “This is not the road and this is not the city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are looking for.” And he led them to Samaria.
- 20** After they entered the city, Elisha said, “Lord, open the eyes of these men so that they can see.” Then the Lord opened their eyes and they looked, and there they were, inside Samaria.

21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill them, my father? Shall I kill them?”

22 “Do not kill them,” he answered. “Would you kill those you have captured with your own sword or bow? Set food and water before them so that they may eat and drink and then go back to their master.”

Psalm 40 (NIVUK)

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

- 4** Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods.
- 5** Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.
- 6** Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—but my ears you have opened;—burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
- 7** Then I said, “Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll.
- 8** “I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.”
- 9** I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know.
- 10** I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness

and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.

- 11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me.
- 12 For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.
- 13 Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me.
- 14 May all who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace.
- 15 May those who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame.
- 16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for

your saving help always say, “The Lord is great!”

17 But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (NIVUK)

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.

5 There are different kinds of service,

6 but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common

8 good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to

another a message of knowledge by

9 means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another

10 gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to

another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Mark 10:46-52 (NIVUK)

Blind Bartimaeus receives his sight

46 Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means ‘son of Timaeus’), was sitting by the roadside
47 begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

48 Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.”

50 Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

52 “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Good News Bible/Today's English Version (GNB/GNT)

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2 Kings 6:8-22 (GNB/GNT)

The Syrian Army is Defeated

**8 The king of Syria was at war with Israel. He consulted his officers and
9 chose a place to set up his camp. But Elisha sent word to the king of Israel, warning him not to go near that place, because the Syrians were waiting in
10 ambush there. So the king of Israel warned the people who lived in that place, and they were on guard. This happened several times.**

11 The Syrian king became greatly upset over this; he called in his officers and asked them, “Which one of you is on the side of the king of Israel?”

12 One of them answered, “No one is, Your Majesty. The prophet Elisha tells the king of Israel what you say even in the privacy of your own room.”

13 “Find out where he is,” the king ordered, “and I will capture him.”

When he was told that Elisha was in Dothan, he sent a large force there with horses and chariots. They reached the town at night and surrounded it.

15 Early the next morning Elisha’s servant got up, went out of the house, and saw the Syrian troops with their horses and chariots surrounding the town. He went back to Elisha and exclaimed, “We are doomed, sir! What shall we do?”

16 “Don’t be afraid,” Elisha answered. “We have more on our side than they

17 have on theirs.” Then he prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!” The Lord answered his prayer, and Elisha’s servant looked up and saw the hillside covered with horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.

18 When the Syrians attacked, Elisha prayed, “O Lord, strike these men blind!” The Lord answered his prayer
19 and struck them blind. Then Elisha went to them and said, “You are on the wrong road; this is not the town you are looking for. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you are after.” And he led them to Samaria.

20 As soon as they had entered the city, Elisha prayed, “Open their eyes, Lord, and let them see.” The Lord answered his prayer; he restored their sight, and they saw that they were inside Samaria.

21 When the king of Israel saw the Syrians, he asked Elisha, “Shall I kill

them, sir? Shall I kill them?”

- 22 “No,” he answered. “Not even soldiers you had captured in combat would you put to death. Give them something to eat and drink, and let them return to their king.”

Psalm 40 (GNB/GNT)

[HEBREW TITLE: A psalm by David]

A Song of Praise

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord’s help; then he listened to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He pulled me out of a dangerous pit, out of the deadly quicksand. He set me safely on a rock and made me secure.
- 3 He taught me to sing a new song, a song of praise to our God. Many who see this will take warning and will put their trust in the Lord.

- 4** Happy are those who trust the Lord, who do not turn to idols or join those who worship false gods.
- 5** You have done many things for us, O Lord our God; there is no one like you! You have made many wonderful plans for us. I could never speak of them all—their number is so great!
- 6** You do not want sacrifices and offerings; you do not ask for animals burned whole on the altar or for sacrifices to take away sins. Instead, you have given me ears to hear you,
- 7** and so I answered, “Here I am; your instructions for me are in the book of the Law.
- 8** “How I love to do your will, my God! I keep your teaching in my heart.”
- 9** In the assembly of all your people, Lord, I told the good news that you save us. You know that I will never stop telling it.

- 10 I have not kept the news of salvation to myself; I have always spoken of your faithfulness and help. In the assembly of all your people I have not been silent about your loyalty and constant love.
- 11 Lord, I know you will never stop being merciful to me. Your love and loyalty will always keep me safe.

A Prayer for Help

- 12 I am surrounded by many troubles—too many to count! My sins have caught up with me, and I can no longer see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and I have lost my courage.
- 13 Save me, Lord! Help me now!
- 14 May those who try to kill me be completely defeated and confused. May those who are happy because of my troubles be turned back and disgraced.

15 May those who make fun of me be dismayed by their defeat.

16 May all who come to you be glad and joyful. May all who are thankful for your salvation always say, “How great is the Lord!”

17 I am weak and poor, O Lord, but you have not forgotten me. You are my saviour and my God—hurry to my aid!

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (GNB/GNT)

4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

5 There are different ways of serving,
6 but the same Lord is served. There

are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability

7 to all for their particular service. The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way

8 in each person for the good of all. The Spirit gives one person a message full

of wisdom, while to another person the same Spirit gives a message full of

9 knowledge. One and the same Spirit
gives faith to one person, while to
another person he gives the power to
10 heal. The Spirit gives one person the
power to work miracles; to another, the
gift of speaking God's message; and to
yet another, the ability to tell the
difference between gifts that come
from the Spirit and those that do not.
To one person he gives the ability to
speak in strange tongues, and to
another he gives the ability to explain
11 what is said. But it is one and the
same Spirit who does all this; as he
wishes, he gives a different gift to each
person.

Mark 10:46-52 (GNB/GNT)

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

46 They came to Jericho, and as Jesus
was leaving with his disciples and
a large crowd, a blind beggar named
Bartimaeus son of Timaeus was sitting
47 by the road. When he heard that it

was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus! Son of David! Have mercy on me!”

48 Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

49 Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called the blind man. “Cheer up!” they said. “Get up, he is calling you.”

50 So he threw off his cloak, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

51 “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

“Teacher,” the blind man answered, “I want to see again.”

52 “Go,” Jesus told him, “your faith has made you well.”

At once he was able to see and followed Jesus on the road.

The Message (MSG)

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2 Kings 6:8-22 (MSG)

8 One time when the king of Aram was at war with Israel, after consulting with his officers, he said, “At such and such
9 a place I want an ambush set.” The Holy Man sent a message to the king of Israel: “Watch out when you’re passing this place, because Aram has set an
10 ambush there.” So the king of Israel sent word concerning the place of which the Holy Man had warned him.

This kind of thing happened all the time.

11 The king of Aram was furious over all
this. He called his officers together
and said, “Tell me, who is leaking
information to the king of Israel? Who
12 is the spy in our ranks?” But one of
his men said, “No, my master, dear
king. It’s not any of us. It’s Elisha the
prophet in Israel. He tells the king of
Israel everything you say, even what
13 you whisper in your bedroom.” The
king said, “Go and find out where he is.
I’ll send someone and capture him.”

The report came back, “He’s in
Dothan.”

14 Then he dispatched horses and
chariots, an impressive fighting force.
They came by night and surrounded the
15 city. Early in the morning a servant of
the Holy Man got up and went out.
Surprise! Horses and chariots
surrounding the city! The young man
exclaimed, “Oh, master! What shall we
16 do?” He said, “Don’t worry about

17 it—there are more on our side than on their side.” Then Elisha prayed, “O God, open his eyes and let him see.”

The eyes of the young man were opened and he saw. A wonder! The whole mountainside full of horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha!

18 When the Arameans attacked, Elisha prayed to God, “Strike these people blind!” And God struck them blind, just
19 as Elisha said. Then Elisha called out to them, “Not that way! Not this city! Follow me and I’ll lead you to the man you’re looking for.” And he led them
20 into Samaria. As they entered the city, Elisha prayed, “O God, open their eyes so they can see where they are.” God opened their eyes. They looked around—they were trapped in Samaria!

21 When the king of Israel saw them, he said to Elisha, “Father, shall I massacre
22 the lot?” “Not on your life!” said Elisha. “You didn’t lift a hand to capture them, and now you’re going to

kill them? No sir, make a feast for them and send them back to their master.”

Psalm 40 (MSG)

1-3 I waited and waited and waited for God. At last he looked; finally he listened. He lifted me out of the ditch, pulled me from deep mud. He stood me up on a solid rock to make sure I wouldn't slip. He taught me how to sing the latest God-song, a praise-song to our God. More and more people are seeing this: they enter the mystery, abandoning themselves to God.

4-5 Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God, turn your backs on the world's 'sure thing,' ignore what the world worships; The world's a huge stockpile of God-wonders and God-thoughts. Nothing and no one compares to you! I start talking about you, telling what I know, and quickly

run out of words. Neither numbers nor words account for you.

6 Doing something for you, bringing something to you—that's not what you're after. Being religious, acting pious—that's not what you're asking for. You've opened my ears so I can listen.

7-8 So I answered, "I'm coming. I read in your letter what you wrote about me, And I'm coming to the party you're throwing for me." That's when God's Word entered my life, became part of my very being.

9- I've preached you to the whole
10 congregation, I've kept back nothing, God—you know that. I didn't keep the news of your ways a secret, didn't keep it to myself. I told it all, how dependable you are, how thorough. I didn't hold back pieces of love and truth For myself alone. I told it all, let the congregation know the whole story.

- 11- Now God, don't hold out on me, don't
12 hold back your passion. Your love and truth are all that keeps me together. When troubles ganged up on me, a mob of sins past counting, I was so swamped by guilt I couldn't see my way clear. More guilt in my heart than hair on my head, so heavy the guilt that my heart gave out.
- 13- Soften up, God, and intervene; hurry
15 and get me some help, So those who are trying to kidnap my soul will be embarrassed and lose face, So anyone who gets a kick out of making me miserable will be heckled and disgraced, So those who pray for my ruin will be booed and jeered without mercy.
- 16- But all who are hunting for you—oh,
17 let them sing and be happy. Let those who know what you're all about tell the world you're great and not quitting. And me? I'm a mess. I'm nothing and have nothing: make something of me.

You can do it; you've got what it takes—but God, don't put it off.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (MSG)

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful:

- wise counsel**
- clear understanding**
- simple trust**
- healing the sick**

- miraculous acts
- proclamation
- distinguishing between spirits
- tongues
- interpretation of tongues.

All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God. He decides who gets what, and when.

Mark 10:46-52 (MSG)

46- They spent some time in Jericho. As
48 Jesus was leaving town, trailed by his disciples and a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting alongside the road. When he heard that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by, he began to cry out, “Son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on

me!” Many tried to hush him up, but he yelled all the louder, “Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!”

**49- Jesus stopped in his tracks. “Call him
50 over.”**

They called him. “It’s your lucky day! Get up! He’s calling you to come!” Throwing off his coat, he was on his feet at once and came to Jesus.

51 Jesus said, “What can I do for you?”

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

52 “On your way,” said Jesus. “Your faith has saved and healed you.”

In that very instant he recovered his sight and followed Jesus down the road.

Psalters

Common Worship

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**GREAT ARE THE WONDERS YOU HAVE
DONE, O LORD MY GOD.**

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord; * he inclined to me and heard my cry.**
- 2 He brought me out of the roaring pit, out of the mire and clay; * he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.**
- 3 He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; * many shall see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.**

4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, * who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God. How great your designs for us! * There is none that can be compared with you.

6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them * they would be more than I am able to express.

GREAT ARE THE WONDERS YOU HAVE DONE, O LORD MY GOD.

7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire * but my ears you have opened;

8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; * then said I: "Lo, I come.

9 "In the scroll of the book it is written of me that I should do your will, O my God; * I delight to do it: your law is within my heart."

10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; * behold, I did not restrain my lips, and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; * I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth from the great congregation.

GREAT ARE THE WONDERS YOU HAVE DONE, O LORD MY GOD.

12 Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Lord; * let your love and your faithfulness always preserve me,

13 For innumerable troubles have come about me; my sins have overtaken me so that I cannot look up; * they are more in number than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me.

14 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; * O Lord, make haste to help me.

15 Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed who seek after my life to destroy it; * let them be driven back and put to shame who wish me evil.

16 Let those who heap insults upon me * be desolate because of their shame.

**Great are the wonders you have done,
O Lord my God.**

17 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; * let those who love your salvation say always, “The Lord is great.”

18 Though I am poor and needy, * the Lord cares for me.

19 You are my helper and my deliverer; * O my God, make no delay. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

**[Or] Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit; as it was**

in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Free us from our sins, O God, and may our sacrifices be of praise to the glory of your Son, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)

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Day 8: Morning Prayer

Expectans expectavi

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord: and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling.**
- 2 He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay:**

and set my feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth: even a thanksgiving unto our God.

4 Many shall see it, and fear: and shall put their trust in the Lord.

5 Blessed is the man that hath set his hope in the Lord: and turned not unto the proud, and to such as go about with lies.

6 O Lord my God, great are the wondrous works which thou hast done, like as be also thy thoughts which are to us-ward: and yet there is no man that ordereth them unto thee.

7 If I should declare them, and speak of them: they should be more than I am able to express.

8 Sacrifice and meat-offering thou wouldest not: but mine ears hast thou opened.

- 9** Burnt-offerings, and sacrifice for sin, hast thou not required: then said I, Lo, I come,
- 10** In the volume of the book it is written of me, that I should fulfil thy will, O my God: I am content to do it; yea, thy law is within my heart.
- 11** I have declared thy righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I will not refrain my lips, O Lord, and that thou knowest.
- 12** I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart: my talk hath been of thy truth and of thy salvation.
- 13** I have not kept back thy loving mercy and truth: from the great congregation.
- 14** Withdraw not thou thy mercy from me, O Lord: let thy loving-kindness and thy truth alway preserve me.
- 15** For innumerable troubles are come about me; my sins have taken such

hold upon me that I am not able to look up: yea, they are more in number than the hairs of my head, and my heart hath failed me.

16 O Lord, let it be thy pleasure to deliver me: make haste, O Lord, to help me.

17 Let them be ashamed and confounded together, that seek after my soul to destroy it: let them be driven backward and put to rebuke, that wish me evil.

18 Let them be desolate, and rewarded with shame: that say unto me, Fie upon thee, fie upon thee.

19 Let all those that seek thee be joyful and glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say alway, The Lord be praised.

20 As for me, I am poor and needy: but the Lord careth for me.

21 Thou art my helper and redeemer: make no long tarrying, O my God.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**