

Kelley Woehl:

Good morning. Welcome to Appleton Chapel here in our memorial church for our daily service of morning prayers. I invite you, if you are able, to please rise and join me in reading our responsive psalm found in your black salter. Psalm 119.

Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Speaker 3:

Happy are those who keep his degrees, who seek [inaudible 00:04:29] Christ.

Kelley Woehl:

Who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways.

Speaker 3:

You have commanded your recess. He has failure to be.

Kelley Woehl:

Oh, that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes.

Speaker 3:

And I shall not keep [inaudible 00:04:45].

Kelley Woehl:

Let my cry come before you, oh, Lord. Give me understanding according to your word.

Speaker 3:

That my sub obligation come before you. Deliver me according to your promise.

Kelley Woehl:

My lips will pour forth praise because you teach me your statutes.

Speaker 3:

My tongue will [inaudible 00:05:12] your promise for all your [inaudible 00:05:13] Christ.

Kelley Woehl:

Let your hand be ready to help me for I have chosen your precepts.

Speaker 3:

I have all your salvation, oh, Lord and [inaudible 00:05:23] my life.

Kelley Woehl:

Let me live that I may praise you, and let your ordinances help me.

Speaker 3:

I will not stray from [inaudible 00:05:33].

Kelley Woehl:

You may be seated.

In lieu of a more traditional morning prayers reflection, I would like to share with you all a very special prayer that is close to my heart. This is the cadet prayer from the United States Military Academy at West Point. I graduated from West Point in 2009, and all three of my younger siblings begrudgingly followed after me.

Chapel was mandatory at West Point from 1802 to 1976. Coincidentally, that's also when women were allowed to join the academies, but I don't think that's connected in any way. This prayer was written in 1922 by a chaplain at West Point named Clayton Wheat, and he wrote this following World War I. It's a longer prayer. I will not ask you to stand up, but please pray with me.

Oh, God, our father, thou searcher of human hearts, help us to draw near to thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness, and may our worship of thee be natural. Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretense ever to diminish.

Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong and never to be content with a half-truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice, and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy. Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer. Help us to maintain the honor of the poor, untarnished and unsullied, and to show forth in our lives the ideals of West Point in doing our duty to thee and to our country, all of which we ask in the name of the great friend and master of all. Amen.

I invite you to please rise, if you are able, and join me in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

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 against temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Please join in singing our concluding hymn, number 46, Awake Awake, To Love and Work.

Now, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always. Amen.

Speaker 3:

Amen.

Kelley Woehl:

Let us bless the Lord.

Speaker 3:

Thanks be to God.