

Morning Prayer

Sunday 15th March 2020



Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven
is close at hand.'

So let us turn away from our sin and turn to
Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us
from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Blessed are you, God of compassion and
mercy,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
In the darkness of our sin,
your light breaks forth like the dawn
and your healing springs up for deliverance.
As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit
and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open
before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.
Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 95

1. Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our
salvation.
2. Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
3. For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
4. In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are his
also.
5. The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
6. Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7. For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and the
sheep of his hand.
8. O that today you would listen to his voice:
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
9. 'When your forebears tested me, and put
me to the proof,
though they had seen my works.
10. 'Forty years long I detested that generation
and said,
"This people are wayward in their hearts;
they do not know my ways."
11. 'So I swore in my wrath,
"They shall not enter into my rest."

**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.**

Exodus 17:1-7 (NIVUK)

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.'

Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?'

But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?'

Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.'

The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Old Testament Canticle

A Song of Humility

1. Come, let us return to the Lord
who has torn us and will heal us.
2. God has stricken us
and will bind up our wounds.
3. After two days, he will revive us,
and on the third day will raise us up,
that we may live in his presence.
4. Let us strive to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.
5. He will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth.

6. 'O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you?
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?
7. 'Your love for me is like the morning mist,
like the dew that goes early away.
8. 'Therefore, I have hewn them by the
prophets,
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
9. 'For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice,
and the knowledge of God rather than
burnt offerings.'

Hosea 6.1-6

**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.**

Romans 5:1-11 (NIVUK)

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

1. Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them
free.
2. He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
3. Through his holy prophets God promised
of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
4. To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
5. This was the oath God swore to our father
Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our
enemies,
6. Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
7. And you, child, shall be called the prophet
of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare
his way,
8. To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
9. In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10. To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of
peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**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.**

Study

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers

Intercessions

The Collect

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.