

Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 9 August 2020

*The service of **Morning Prayer** has its roots in the daily pattern of prayer and worship in monastic communities. The liturgy draws richly on the scriptures: both in the appointed psalms and readings, and also in other songs (canticles) and responses. Today's pew sheet (see www.anglicanaltlav.org.au/pew-sheets) contains a third reading, set for today but not included in this service.*

This is the day that the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118.24

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

The Opening Canticle, A Song of Triumph (Venite)

O come, let us sing out to the Lord:
let us shout in triumph to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his face with thanksgiving:
and cry out to him joyfully in psalms.
For the Lord is a great God:
and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth:
and the peaks of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his and he made it:
his hands moulded dry land.
Come, let us worship and bow down:
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is the Lord our God:
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Today if only you would hear his voice:
'Do not harden your hearts as Israel did in the wilderness;
'When your forebears tested me:
put me to proof though they had seen my works.
'Forty years long I loathed that generation and said:
"It is a people who err in their hearts,
for they do not know my ways";
'Of whom I swore in my wrath:
"They shall not enter my rest."

Psalm 95

The Opening Prayer

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

Silence may be 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.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
confident in God's forgiveness.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Psalm

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name: tell
among the peoples what things he has done.
Sing to him, O sing praises: and be telling of all his
marvellous works.
Exult in his holy name: and let those that seek the
Lord be joyful in heart.
Seek the Lord and his strength: O seek his face
continually.
Call to mind what wonders he has done: his
marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
O seed of Abraham his servant: O children of Jacob
his chosen one.
Then he called down a famine on the land: and
destroyed the bread that was their stay.
But he had sent a man ahead of them: Joseph who
was sold into slavery,
Whose feet they fastened with fetters: and thrust his
neck into a hoop of iron.

Till the time that his words proved true: he was tested
by the Lord's command.
Then the king sent and loosed him: the ruler of
nations set him free;
He made him master of his household: and ruler over
all his possessions,
To rebuke his officers at will: and to teach his
counsellors wisdom.

(105.1-6, 16-22)

God of our earthly pilgrimage, feed your Easter
people with the bread of heaven, that we may hunger
and thirst for righteousness until we reach our
promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from the First Testament (Hebrew Bible)

A reading from the book Genesis.

Jacob lived in the land of Canaan where his father
was an immigrant. This is the account of Jacob's
descendants. Joseph was 17 years old and tended the
flock with his brothers. While he was helping the
sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, Joseph
told their father unflattering things about them. Now
Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons
because he was born when Jacob was old. Jacob had
made for him a long robe. When his brothers saw that
their father loved him more than any of his brothers,
they hated him and couldn't even talk nicely to him.

...

Joseph's brothers went to tend their father's flocks
near Shechem. Israel said to Joseph, "Aren't your
brothers tending the sheep near Shechem? Come, I'll
send you to them."

And he said, "I'm ready."

Jacob said to him, "Go! Find out how your brothers
are and how the flock is, and report back to me."

So Jacob sent him from the Hebron Valley. When he
approached Shechem, a man found him wandering in
the field and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

Joseph said, "I'm looking for my brothers. Tell me,
where are they tending the sheep?"

The man said, "They left here. I heard them saying,
'Let's go to Dothan.'" So Joseph went after his
brothers and found them in Dothan.

They saw Joseph in the distance before he got close
to them, and they plotted to kill him. The brothers
said to each other, "Here comes the big dreamer.
Come on now, let's kill him and throw him into one
of the cisterns, and we'll say a wild animal devoured
him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams!"

When Reuben heard what they said, he saved him
from them, telling them, "Let's not take his life."
Reuben said to them, "Don't spill his blood! Throw
him into this desert cistern, but don't lay a hand on
him." He intended to save Joseph from them and take
him back to his father.

When Joseph reached his brothers, they stripped off
Joseph's long robe, took him, and threw him into the
cistern, an empty cistern with no water in it. When
they sat down to eat, they looked up and saw a
caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with
camels carrying sweet resin, medicinal resin, and
fragrant resin on their way down to Egypt. Judah said
to his brothers, "What do we gain if we kill our
brother and hide his blood? Come on, let's sell him to
the Ishmaelites. Let's not harm him because he's our
brother; he's family." His brothers agreed. When
some Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph
up out of the cistern. They sold him to the Ishmaelites
for twenty pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph
to Egypt.

(37.1-4, 12-28; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Right then, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat
and go ahead to the other side of the lake while he
dismissed the crowds. When he sent them away, he
went up onto a mountain by himself to pray. Evening
came and he was alone. Meanwhile, the boat, fighting
a strong headwind, was being battered by the waves
and was already far away from land. Very early in the
morning he came to his disciples, walking on the
lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the
lake, they were terrified and said, "It's a ghost!" They
were so frightened they screamed.

Just then Jesus spoke to them, "Be encouraged! It's
me. Don't be afraid."

Peter replied, "Lord, if it's you, order me to come to
you on the water."

And Jesus said, "Come."

Then Peter got out of the boat and was walking on
the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the
strong wind, he became frightened. As he began to
sink, he shouted, "Lord, rescue me!"

Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him,
saying, "You man of weak faith! Why did you begin
to have doubts?" When they got into the boat, the
wind settled down.

Then those in the boat worshipped Jesus and said,
"You must be God's Son!"

When they had crossed the lake, they landed at
Gennesaret. When the people who lived in that place
recognized him, they sent word throughout that
whole region, and they brought to him everyone who
was sick. Then they begged him that they might just
touch the edge of his clothes. Everyone who touched
him was cured.

(14.22-36; CEB)

Here ends the second reading.

The readings are followed by a short period of silence for reflection, then the response

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The Canticle, The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:
who has come to his people and set them free.
The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:
born of the house of his servant David.
Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of
all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears:
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear:
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our
life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the
Most High:
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation:
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God:
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
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

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's 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 from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there 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.**

The Prayers

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Mighty God and ruler of all creation,
give new strength to our faith,
that we may recognise your presence
even when all hope seems lost.
Help us to face all trials with serenity
as we walk with Christ
through the stormy seas of life
and come at the last to your eternal peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings.

The Morning Collect

Eternal God and Father,
by whose power we are created
and by whose love we are redeemed;
guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another and to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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

2 Corinthians 13.14

*Material in this service is taken from A Prayer Book for Australia
(1995), Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2005).*