

# MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 20 September 2020

*Welcome to this service of Morning Prayer, and thank you for joining us whether from near or far. Please add your voice and your prayers as we worship God together.*

*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](http://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 the Word of the Lord*

Seek the Lord while he may be found:  
call upon him while he is near;  
Let the wicked abandon their ways:  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
Return to the Lord, who will have mercy:  
to our God, who will richly pardon.  
'For my thoughts are not your thoughts:  
neither are your ways my ways', says the Lord.  
'For as the heavens are higher than the earth:  
so are my ways higher than your ways and my  
thoughts than your thoughts.  
'As the rain and the snow come down from above:  
and return not again but water the earth,  
'Bringing forth life and giving growth:  
seed for sowing and bread to eat,  
'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth:  
it will not return to me fruitless,  
'But it will accomplish that which I purpose:  
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

*Isaiah 55.6-11*

## *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.

He brought Israel out with silver and with gold: and  
not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.  
Egypt was glad at their going: for dread of Israel had  
fallen upon them.

He spread out a cloud for a covering: and fire to  
lighten the night.  
The people asked, and he brought them quails: and  
satisfied them with the bread from heaven.  
He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed: and ran  
in the parched land like a river.  
For he had remembered his holy word: that he gave  
to Abraham his servant.  
So he led out his people with rejoicing: his chosen  
ones with shouts of joy;  
He gave them the land of the nations: and they took  
possession of the fruit for which other peoples had  
toiled,  
So that they might keep his statutes: and faithfully  
obey his laws. O praise the Lord.

(105.1-6, 37-45)

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 Exodus.

The whole Israelite community complained against  
Moses and Aaron in the desert. The Israelites said to  
them, "Oh, how we wish that the LORD had just put  
us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt.  
There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat  
our fill of bread. Instead, you've brought us out into  
this desert to starve this whole assembly to death."  
Then the LORD said to Moses, "I'm going to make  
bread rain down from the sky for you. The people  
will go out each day and gather just enough for that  
day. In this way, I'll test them to see whether or not  
they follow my Instruction. On the sixth day, when  
they measure out what they have collected, it will be  
twice as much as they collected on other days." So  
Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "This  
evening you will know that it was the LORD who  
brought you out of the land of Egypt. And in the  
morning you will see the LORD's glorious presence,  
because your complaints against the Lord have been  
heard. Who are we? Why blame us?" Moses  
continued, "The LORD will give you meat to eat in  
the evening and your fill of bread in the morning  
because the LORD heard the complaints you made  
against him. Who are we? Your complaints aren't  
against us but against the LORD."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole  
Israelite community, 'Come near to the LORD,  
because he's heard your complaints.'" As Aaron  
spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned  
to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious  
presence of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

The LORD spoke to Moses, "I've heard the  
complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight  
you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have  
your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the  
LORD your God.'"

In the evening a flock of quail flew down and  
covered the camp. And in the morning there was a  
layer of dew all around the camp. When the layer of  
dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin  
flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. When the  
Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?"  
They didn't know what it was.

Moses said to them, "This is the bread that the LORD  
has given you to eat."

(16.2-15; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

### *Reading from the New Testament*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I mention you in my  
prayers. I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray,  
and it's always a prayer full of joy. I'm glad because  
of the way you have been my partners in the ministry  
of the gospel from the time you first believed it until  
now. I'm sure about this: the one who started a good  
work in you will stay with you to complete the job by  
the day of Christ Jesus. I have good reason to think  
this way about all of you because I keep you in my  
heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both  
during my time in prison and in the defence and  
support of the gospel. God is my witness that I feel  
affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ  
Jesus.

...

Most important, live together in a manner worthy of  
Christ's gospel. Do this, whether I come and see you  
or I'm absent and hear about you. Do this so that you  
stand firm, united in one spirit and mind as you  
struggle together to remain faithful to the gospel.  
That way, you won't be afraid of anything your  
enemies do. Your faithfulness and courage are a sign  
of their coming destruction and your salvation, which  
is from God. God has generously granted you the  
privilege, not only of believing in Christ but also of  
suffering for Christ's sake. You are having the same  
struggle that you saw me face and now hear that I'm  
still facing.

(1.3-8, 27-30; 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, A Song of Redemption*

Christ is the image of the invisible God:  
the first-born of all creation.  
For in him all things were created:  
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.  
All things were created through him and for him:  
he is before all things  
and in him all things hold together.  
He is the head of the body, the Church:  
he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead.  
For it pleased God that in him  
all fullness should dwell:  
and through him all things be reconciled to himself.

*Colossians 1.15-20*

### *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*

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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).*