

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 18 July 2021
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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) 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

I have found my servant David: and anointed him
with my holy oil.
*My hand shall uphold him: and my arm shall
strengthen him.*
No enemy shall deceive him: nor shall the wicked
hurt him.
*I will crush his adversaries before him: and strike
down those that hate him.*
My faithfulness and loving-kindness shall be with
him: and through my name his head shall be lifted
high.
*I will set the hand of his dominion upon the Western
Sea: and his right hand shall stretch to the streams
of Mesopotamia.*
He will call to me "You are my Father: my God, and
the Rock of my salvation."

I will make him my first-born son: and highest among the kings of the earth.

I will ever maintain my loving-kindness toward him: and my covenant with him shall stand firm.

I will establish his line for ever: and his throne like the days of heaven.

If his children forsake my law: and will not walk in my judgements;

If they profane my statutes: and do not keep my commandments,

Then I will punish their rebellion with the rod: and their iniquity with blows.

But I will not cause my loving-kindness to cease from him: nor will I betray my faithfulness.

I will not profane my covenant: or alter what has passed from my lips.

Once and for all I have sworn by my holiness: I will not prove false to David.

His posterity shall endure for ever: and his throne be as the sun before me;

Like the moon that is established for ever: and stands in the heavens for evermore.

(89.21-38)

As we sing of your love, O Lord, anoint us with the Spirit's seal, that we may praise your faithfulness and proclaim your truth from age to age; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from the First Testament (Hebrew Bible)

A reading from the second book of Samuel

When the king was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "Look! I'm living in a cedar palace, but God's chest is housed in a tent!"

Nathan said to the king, "Go ahead and do whatever you are thinking, because the LORD is with you."

But that very night the LORD's word came to Nathan: Go to my servant David and tell him: This is what the LORD says: You are not the one to build the temple for me to live in. In fact, I haven't lived in a temple from the day I brought Israel out of Egypt until now. Instead, I have been travelling around in a tent and in a dwelling. Throughout my travelling around with the Israelites, did I ever ask any of Israel's tribal leaders I appointed to shepherd my people: Why haven't you built me a cedar temple?

So then, say this to my servant David: This is what the LORD of heavenly forces says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be leader over my people Israel. I've been with you wherever you've gone, and I've eliminated all your enemies before you. Now I will make your name great—like the name of the greatest people on earth. I'm going to

provide a place for my people Israel, and plant them so that they may live there and no longer be disturbed. Cruel people will no longer trouble them, as they had been earlier, when I appointed leaders over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

And the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make a dynasty for you. When the time comes for you to die and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your descendant—one of your very own children—to succeed you, and I will establish his kingdom. He will build a temple for my name, and I will establish his royal throne forever. I will be a father to him, and he will be a son to me.

(7.1-14a; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

So remember that once you were Gentiles by physical descent, who were called "uncircumcised" by Jews who are physically circumcised. At that time you were without Christ. You were aliens rather than citizens of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of God's promise. In this world you had no hope and no God. But now, thanks to Christ Jesus, you who once were so far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Christ is our peace. He made both Jews and Gentiles into one group. With his body, he broke down the barrier of hatred that divided us. He cancelled the detailed rules of the Law so that he could create one new person out of the two groups, making peace. He reconciled them both as one body to God by the cross, which ended the hostility to God.

When he came, he announced the good news of peace to you who were far away from God and to those who were near. We both have access to the Father through Christ by the one Spirit. So now you are no longer strangers and aliens. Rather, you are fellow citizens with God's people, and you belong to God's household. As God's household, you are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. The whole building is joined together in him, and it grows up into a temple that is dedicated to the Lord. Christ is building you into a place where God lives through the Spirit.

(2.11-22; 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, Te Deum Laudamus

We praise you, O God: we acclaim you as Lord.
All creation worships you: the Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven: the
cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you: The
noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you:
Throughout the world, the holy Church
acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded: your true and only
Son, worthy of all praise, the Holy Spirit,
advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the King of glory: the eternal Son
of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free: you
humbly chose the virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death: and opened the
kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory: We
believe that you will come to be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought
with the price of your own blood: and bring us
with your saints to glory everlasting.

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

Eternal God,
author of our life and end of our pilgrimage:
guide us by your word and Spirit
amid all perils and temptations,
that we may not wander from your way,
but may run our course in safety
until we come to our eternal rest in you;
through the grace of 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