

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 5 September 2021
Fifteenth 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 Cantic, 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

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

Those who put their trust in the Lord shall be as
Mount Zion: which cannot be shaken, but endures
for ever.
As the mountains stand about Jerusalem, so stands
the Lord about his people: from this time forward
for evermore.
For the sceptre of wickedness shall have no sway
over the land apportioned to the righteous: lest the
righteous set their hands to do evil.
Do good, O Lord, to those who are good: to those
that are upright in heart.
As for those who turn aside to crooked ways, let the
Lord lead them away with the evildoers: and in
Israel let there be peace.

God of power,
you are strong to save
and you never fail those who trust in you;
keep us under your protection
and spread abroad your reign of peace
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from the First Testament (Hebrew Bible)

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A good reputation is better than much wealth;
high esteem is better than silver and gold.
The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD made them both.

...

Those who sow injustice will harvest evil;
the rod of their fury will come to an end.

Happy are generous people,
because they give some of their food to the poor.

...

Don't steal from the poor, because they are poor.
Don't oppress the needy in the gate.

For the LORD will take up their case
and press the life out of those who oppress them.

(22.1-2, 8-9, 22-23; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the letter of James

My brothers and sisters, when you show favouritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been resurrected in glory. Imagine two people coming into your meeting. One has a gold ring and fine clothes, while the other is poor, dressed in filthy rags. Then suppose that you were to take special notice of the one wearing fine clothes, saying, "Here's an excellent place. Sit here." But to the poor person you say, "Stand over there"; or, "Here, sit at my feet." Wouldn't you have shown favouritism among yourselves and become evil-minded judges?

My dear brothers and sisters, listen! Hasn't God chosen those who are poor by worldly standards to be rich in terms of faith? Hasn't God chosen the poor as heirs of the kingdom he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Don't the wealthy make life difficult for you? Aren't they the ones who drag you into court? Aren't they the ones who insult the good name spoken over you at your baptism?

You do well when you really fulfil the royal law found in scripture, *Love your neighbour as yourself*. But when you show favouritism, you are committing a sin,

and by that same law you are exposed as a lawbreaker. Anyone who tries to keep all of the Law but fails at one point is guilty of failing to keep all of it. The one who said, *Don't commit adultery*, also said, *Don't commit murder*. So if you don't commit adultery but do commit murder, you are a lawbreaker. In every way, then, speak and act as people who will be judged by the law of freedom. There will be no mercy in judgment for anyone who hasn't shown mercy. Mercy overrules judgment.

My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity.

(2.1-17; 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 Mary (Magnificat)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord: my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
The Almighty has done great things for me: and holy is his name.
God has mercy on those who fear him: from generation to generation.
The Lord has shown strength with his arm: and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones: and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things: and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel: to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears: to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.47-55

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

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase our faith, hope, and love,
and, that we may receive all you promise,
make us love what you command;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

concluding with the Parish Prayer:

**Creator Spirit, God beyond our knowing,
your love has been poured into our hearts.
Renew our trust in you,
and shape our lives to the call of Jesus,
our crucified and risen Lord.
Make us a people of blessing and hope,
so that neighbours and strangers may be drawn
to the compassion of Christ. Amen.**

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).