

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 12 September 2021

Feast of St Eanswythe



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

The heavens declare the glory of God: and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;
One day tells it to another: and night to night communicates knowledge.
There is no speech or language: nor are their voices heard;
Yet their sound has gone out through all the world: and their words to the ends of the earth.
There he has pitched a tent for the sun: which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.
Its rising is at one end of the heavens, and its circuit to their farthest bound: and nothing is hidden from its heat.
The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul: the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.
The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean, and endures for ever: the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.
More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold: sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.
Moreover, by them is your servant taught: and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can know their own unwitting sins?: O cleanse me from my secret faults.
Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the mastery over me: so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.
May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight: O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

(19)

Christ, the sun of righteousness, rise in our hearts this day, enfold us in the brightness of your love and bear us at the last to heaven's horizon; for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Reading from the First Testament (Hebrew Bible)

A reading from the book of Proverbs

Wisdom shouts in the street;
in the public square she raises her voice.
Above the noisy crowd, she calls out.
At the entrances of the city gates, she has her say:
“How long will you clueless people love your naïveté,
mockers hold their mocking dear,
and fools hate knowledge?
You should respond when I correct you.
Look, I'll pour out my spirit on you.

I'll reveal my words to you.
I invited you, but you rejected me;
I stretched out my hand to you,
but you paid no attention.
You ignored all my advice,
and you didn't want me to correct you.
So I'll laugh at your disaster;
I'll make fun of you when dread comes over you,
when terror hits you like a hurricane,
and your disaster comes in like a tornado,
when distress and oppression overcome you.
Then they will call me, but I won't answer;
they will seek me, but won't find me
because they hated knowledge
and didn't choose the fear of the LORD.
They didn't want my advice;
they rejected all my corrections.
They will eat from the fruit of their way,
and they'll be full of their own schemes.
The immature will die because they turn away;
smugness will destroy fools.
Those who obey me will dwell securely,
untroubled by the dread of harm.”

(1.20-33; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the letter of James

Someone might claim, “You have faith and I have action.” But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I'll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action. It's good that you believe that God is one. Ha! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble with fear. Are you so slow? Do you need to be shown that faith without actions has no value at all? What about Abraham, our father? Wasn't he shown to be righteous through his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? See, his faith was at work along with his actions. In fact, his faith was made complete by his faithful actions. So the scripture was fulfilled that says, *Abraham believed God, and God regarded him as righteous*. What is more, Abraham was called God's friend. So you see that a person is shown to be righteous through faithful actions and not through faith alone. In the same way, wasn't Rahab the prostitute shown to be righteous when she received the messengers as her guests and then sent them on by another road? As the lifeless body is dead, so faith without actions is dead.

(2.18-26; 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

Almighty God, by whose grace Eanswythe, kindled with the fire of your love, became a burning and a shining light in the Church: inflame us with the same spirit of discipline and love, that we may ever walk before you as children of light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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).