



Morning Prayer

Pentecost

31st May 2020

An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

31 May 2020

Pentecost

Hymn

Colours of day dawn into the mind,
The sun has come up, the night is behind,
Go down in the city, into the street,
And let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
Open the door, let Jesus return,
Take seeds of His Spirit, let the fruit grow,
Tell the people of Jesus, let His love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town,
The sun still shines on, it never goes down,
The Light of the world is risen again,
The people of darkness are needing a friend.

Open your eyes, look into the sky,
The darkness has gone, the Son came to die,
The evening draws on, the sun disappears,
But Jesus is living, His Spirit is near.

† Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Prayers of Penitence

What God has prepared for those who love him,
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;
for the Spirit searches everything.
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

cf 1 Corinthians 2.9

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed is the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy
and in our song will we praise our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,
creator and redeemer of all;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world.
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.
Now, through the deep waters of death,
you have brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

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

Silence is 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.

¶ The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 104.26-36,37b

- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 **There is the sea, spread far and wide,
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and
great.**
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan
which you have made to play in the deep.

- 29 All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
- 30 **When you give it them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are filled with good.**
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 **When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.**
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
- 34 **He looks on the earth and it trembles;
he touches the mountains and they smoke.**
- 35 I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will make music to my God while I have my being.
- 36 **So shall my song please him
while I rejoice in the Lord.**
- 37 Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now:
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 2.1-21

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with

the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?' ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading may be followed by a time of silence.

Old Testament Cantic

A Song of Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36.24-26,28b

- 1 I will take you from the nations,
and gather you from all the countries.
- 2 **I will sprinkle clean water upon you,
and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses.**
- 3 A new heart I will give you,
and put a new spirit within you,
- 4 **And I will remove from your body the heart of stone
and give you a heart of flesh.**
- 5 You shall be my people,
and I will be your God.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading

John 20.19-23

¹⁹It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I

send you.’²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The reading may be followed by a time of silence.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.**

Gospel Canticle

Benedictus

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 **To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 **And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 **In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**
- 10 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

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Sermon (There is a reflection at the end of this booklet)

Hymn

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing

O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he become the place
where-in the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

¶ Prayers

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For people who cannot gather together but who are prevented
from travelling, or forced into isolation...

For people who walk alone, and all who are housebound, lonely or
afraid at this time....

Lord that you will walk alongside them and deliver them safely

from all their troubles.

At this time of need

We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray

For people who have lost any vision of wind or fire; whose faith seems to be damaged beyond repair, who can see no point in the future.....

Lord that you will set them free and set their feet on the road that they might find their way.

At this time of need

We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray

For people who receive mocking and scorn for their faith.....

For those who are persecuted and imprisoned, laughed at or tormented....

Lord that you may give them courage, patience and endurance to walk the narrow path that leads to eternal life.

At this time of need

We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray

For people who are sick and suffering and all those who care for them.....

For those who have died, especially as a result of the current pandemic....

For all with power, dedication and expertise who are working to bring us into a brighter tomorrow....

Lord give them a hunger for justice and a passion for change.

At this time of need

We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray

For us who are your church who at this time, though we are apart, may still enjoy togetherness.....

Lord that we may find new ways to come together and live the Gospel in our lives, and be inspired to proclaim our faith....

At this time of need

We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Collect is said.

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**



The Conclusion

The Blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Hymn

Lord, the light of your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth you now bring us
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine

Fill this land with the Father's glory

Blaze, Spirit, blaze

Set our hearts on fire

Flow, river, flow

Flood the nations with grace and mercy

Send forth your word

Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
From the shadows into your radiance
By the blood I may enter your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
So our faces display your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story
Shine on me, shine on me

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Pentecost

By Canon Ivor Moody

Before God expresses himself and his awesome power, he first has to limit himself. Before glory there is containment. The act of creation, while it is a demonstration of everything that God could do, was nevertheless a lesson in how God has to restrain himself, to contain himself, in order first that from everything that was God and that God was, there should come light then dark, then earth and sky, then land and sea, and so on. The pinnacle of his achievement is the creation of a woman and a man; and yet he meets them, and hears of their disobedience, when he is walking like a man himself, in the garden, in the cool of the day.

We should not be surprised at this, because the call of some of the most important people who have shaped the salvation history of God have happened almost incidentally- through a burning bush, through the silence of a cave, through a little boy who is keeping the sheep and who has escaped human notice. And Jesus himself, we know, consistently refused a display of majesty and power demanded by the Pharisees to prove who he was, and which became one of the major taunts of the cross: 'If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross. He saved others- he cannot save himself!'

And so it is with the story of Pentecost. As with so many well known passages of scripture, we are swept away by the power and the majesty of the moment, but we miss the even more obvious and just as important verse which precedes or follows it. We all marvel at the outpouring of the Spirit and the dramatic birth of the Christian Church, but we overlook the little piece of information Luke gives us without which, Pentecost might not have happened: 'When the day of Pentecost had come' Luke tells us, 'They were all together in one place'. What a crucial little detail that is! Why? Because it tells us that the conditions have to be what and where God so orders them, people have to have reached a particular point and level of understanding and wisdom in their lives before God acts. Of course, he can act anytime, but that's not the point, because he has always worked his will for the world in conjunction with human beings, and not over and against them. That's why Adam and Eve were his crowning achievement, the pinnacle of his creative process.

The point is that in that upper room were Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, James and Simon, together with a company of women including Jesus' own mother and no doubt others of his earliest disciples who are not named and who we will never know; but we do know from the Gospels that they were vastly different people, each with a different story to tell, and we know that Jesus called each of these very different weak, temperamental, confused and frightened people because he loved them and their differences. He loved Simon the passionate zealot; he loved the bad tempered, fiery James and John, the Sons of Thunder; he loved the fickle Peter who promised so much but delivered so little; he loved the doubting Thomas, and Bartholomew, whose first meeting with Jesus was so unpromising that when he heard about Jesus he exclaimed 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?!'

And yet now, here, when the day of Pentecost had come, despite all those very different stories of struggle, doubt and failure, here they were, all gathered in one place, because after all that, the time was right. Yes the church may be able to attribute its birth and growth over all the known world because of what happened at Pentecost, but the real power of this phenomenon lies in the fact that it was made possible because different, disparate stories from countless different people all of whom had experienced the presence of Christ in their lives in a myriad of different ways are now brought together under love's banner at that precise place and time, to pool all those differences and to use them to the greatest possible effect.

Why might this be important for us? Simply that we often despair of or fail in our prayers because we want God to act, we expect him to act, we desire that he adjusts himself to our timescale, that he fits in with our human timings, the schedule of events we want or think is reasonable. I wonder how much our prayer lives would be deepened, and indeed with hindsight how many of our prayers subsequently we would see have in fact been answered, if we built into them a capacity for silence, an ability for attentiveness, a permission to wait, underpinned by a firm belief that when our day of Pentecost comes, we will be in that precise place, at that precise time, which is in fact the optimum point for the action and activity of God to break into our lives?

For a man who it seems waited all his life for that place and time, this is how R. S. Thomas describes it, in a poem called 'Kneeling':

Moments of great calm,
Kneeling before an altar
Of wood in a stone church
In summer, waiting for the God
To speak: the air a staircase
For silence: the sun's light
Ringing me, as though I acted
A great role. And the audiences
Still: all that close throng
Of spirits waiting, as I,
For the message.
Prompt me God:
But not yet. When I speak,
Though it be you who speak
Through me, something is lost.
The meaning is in the waiting.