



# **Morning Prayer**

**Trinity Sunday**

**7<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

# An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

7 June 2020

Trinity Sunday

## † 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

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.  
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,  
all slander and malice,  
and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

*cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

**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 8*

- 1 O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!
- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised  
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
- 3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes,  
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
- 5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them;  
mere human beings, that you should seek them out?
- 6 You have made them little lower than the angels  
and crown them with glory and honour.
- 7 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands  
and put all things under their feet,
- 8 All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea  
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our governor,  
how glorious is your name in all the world!

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

*Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31*

<sup>12</sup>Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand  
and marked off the heavens with a span,  
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure,  
and weighed the mountains in scales  
and the hills in a balance?

<sup>13</sup>Who has directed the spirit of the LORD,  
or as his counsellor has instructed him?

<sup>14</sup>Whom did he consult for his enlightenment,  
and who taught him the path of justice?

Who taught him knowledge,  
and showed him the way of understanding?

<sup>15</sup>Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket,  
and are accounted as dust on the scales;  
see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.

<sup>16</sup>Lebanon would not provide fuel enough,  
nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering.

<sup>17</sup>All the nations are as nothing before him;  
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and  
emptiness.

<sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,

‘My way is hidden from the LORD,  
and my right is disregarded by my God’?

<sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The LORD is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.

<sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

## **Old Testament Canticle**

### **A Song of David**

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b*

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,  
for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;  
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you  
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might;  
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God,  
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you,  
and of your own have we given you.

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b*

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

Matthew 28.16-20

<sup>16</sup>The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

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)

## **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 the health and well-being of our nation, that all who are fearful  
and anxious may be at peace and free from worry:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

We pray that you will be with all of our congregation worshipping  
at this time, that we may be supported by our common prayer and  
soon return to worshipping together.

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their  
needs, and care for them in their vulnerability:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

For a blessing on our local community, that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for:

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.*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:  
keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;  
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.**

*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.**

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## Trinity Sunday

By Bishop Stephen Cottrell

If you have ever had a Jehovah's Witness on your doorstep and felt a little nonplussed when they point out that the word Trinity doesn't appear in the Bible, and that all that stuff about 'three persons and one God' was formulated by the church centuries later, obscuring the simple message of the humble preacher from Galilee, and, anyway, didn't you learn in school that three into one don't go, then please hold onto your pew and keep listening because I want to take you on a whistle stop tour of the Christian understanding of God, for far from being some esoteric 4th century addition to a simple faith, the astonishing and beautiful truth of our Christian belief is that the one God who was made known to the people of Israel as their creator and sustainer, the one who cared about them and was involved in the purposes of the world, is also the God who having tried everything to communicate his purposes and his truth to us through law and prophet, enters the creation he has made, sharing its joys and its sorrows, in the person of his son, Jesus Christ. Of course, those who knew and followed Jesus didn't get this straightaway. At first they think Jesus is a rabbi, a great teacher; and later they think of him as a prophet like the great prophets they had read about.

But scattered throughout the New Testament there are moments when they glimpse who he really is, but even then, just as they begin to get it, Jesus starts telling them that he is going to suffer and die, so even if they have begun to think that might be the Messiah that was promised in the Old Testament, he is not at all the sort of Messiah they were expecting.

But after his death and Resurrection, and when they have received the empowering gift of his Holy Spirit, they start to reflect on their experience. And as they reflect they find that the only vocabulary that works to talk about Jesus is the vocabulary of God. Jesus wasn't just someone uniquely inspired by God; not just someone sent by God; but their experience of Jesus is that he *is* God and that God was *in him* reconciling the world to himself. Moreover, at his Ascension Jesus commands and commissions his disciples to take his message of love and

salvation to all the world, baptizing people in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In these words we see what we now call the doctrine of the Trinity emerging: the *one God* now known and experienced in *three ways* – Father, Son and Spirit.

Of course, such a mind expanding, heart-warming, life changing experience and understanding of God could not be written down or formulated very clearly straightaway; and even today once you try to conclusively and accurately define the Holy Trinity the whole thing slips through your fingers. That's why Paul's little blessing and formula in 2 Corinthians 13 probably says it best of all, though I wonder whether Paul even realised the significance of his words as he wrote them. But in his appeal that we live in peace with each other and with God he prays that “the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us” (2 Cor. 13.13).

The Christian understanding of God is that *God is community* and that *God is relationship* and that *God is love*. And we know God is love *because* God is relationship and community, giving and receiving and creating.

And the really good bit? What would not be there if God was not Trinity, and if Jesus was just a wonderful man? We are invited to join in. This is what God does through Jesus in his death and resurrection, and this really does change everything. For if God is community, and if God is relationship, and if God is love, and if, as the Bible says, we are made in the image of God, then what is best in us also finds expression in community and in relationship and in love. This is why marriage matters. This is why families matter. This is why friendship matters. This is why communities matter. This is why we cannot cut ourselves off from each other, either in our neighbourhoods or across the world.

And we need to know this in the church, where it is so easy for us to build barriers around different denominations and understandings and traditions; and we need it in the world, particularly praying for peace and unity in our own nation. And we will be at our best, as individual Christians and as Christian communities, when we are supporting and enabling and creating community and relationship.

And through Jesus we join in. When we are baptised in the name of the Trinity, we enter into a relationship with God that we live out within the community of the church. This is the Christian faith, our life united with the life of God through Jesus Christ. Also, wonderfully, it is the Christian hope: we will enjoy the company of God forever, the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a community of persons, but one God, a relationship of giving and receiving love that we can be part of.