



# **Morning Prayer**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

**21<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

# An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

14 June 2020

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity

## † 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

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'  
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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  
cleans 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 69.8-11, 18-20*

- 8 For your sake have I suffered reproach;  
shame has covered my face.
- 9 I have become a stranger to my kindred,  
an alien to my mother's children.
- 10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.
- 11 I humbled myself with fasting,  
but that was turned to my reproach.
- 18 Answer me, Lord, for your loving-kindness is good;  
turn to me in the multitude of your mercies.
- 19 Hide not your face from your servant;  
be swift to answer me, for I am in trouble.
- 20 Draw near to my soul and redeem me;  
deliver me because of my enemies.

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**

*Jeremiah 20.7-13*

- <sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me,  
and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me,  
and you have prevailed.  
I have become a laughing-stock all day long;  
everyone mocks me.  
<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out,

I must shout, 'Violence and destruction!'  
For the word of the LORD has become for me  
a reproach and derision all day long.  
<sup>9</sup>If I say, 'I will not mention him,  
or speak any more in his name',  
then within me there is something like a burning fire  
shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in,  
and I cannot.  
<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering:  
'Terror is all around!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!'  
All my close friends  
are watching for me to stumble.  
'Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him,  
and take our revenge on him.'  
<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonour  
will never be forgotten.  
<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.  
<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **Old Testament Canticale**

### **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 10.24-39*

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction: <sup>24</sup>'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

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 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.*

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,  
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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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity (Proper 7)

By the Ven Elwin Cockett

If ever you thought that having a closer relationship with God was a route to an easy life of health, wealth and earthly prosperity, today's readings tell another story.

Take our first reading, in which the Old Testament prophet Jeremiah complains to God that although he has been doing what God asked him to do; he has become a laughing stock. 'Everyone mocks me,' he says. 'All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.'

Today's Psalm continues the theme: 'For your sake have I suffered reproach; shame has covered my face' and 'Let not the water flood drown me, neither the deep swallow me up'

Then, in our Gospel reading we hear Jesus telling his disciples that if people called even him 'Beelzebul', we too can expect to be abused and ill-treated. Worse than that – His warning that whoever does not take up the cross and follow him was not worthy of him must have been shocking to those who heard it first, because everyone knew that under the Roman occupation a person who was carrying a cross was on the way to their own execution by crucifixion.

History tells us that Jesus was not speaking metaphorically. All but one of the twelve came to a violent end; only John surviving to live out his days in peace. None of them experienced 'health, wealth and prosperity'. As the 16th-century mystic Teresa of Avilla put it, addressing God, "If this is the way you treat your friends, it's no wonder you have so few!"

The question of why bad things happen to good people is a serious one. Why does God allow good people we know suffer – recognising that for many of us it's personal: My own father – a missionary doctor who spent his life serving the poor in India and Africa, and who was a far better Christian than I am, died at the age of 36. Why? Why should we put our faith in a God who allows this? Why should we believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Well, the first answer is because it is true.

It is true that there is a God who knows us and loves us and wants us to live in a loving relationship with him that transcends death itself. Knowing that truth, that you – you - are loved by God so much that Jesus lived and died for you, defeating death in the process, changes everything.

That it is true is one of the best-attested facts of history. Would those closest to Jesus – the witnesses to his resurrection - have lived and died as they did if they'd thought for one minute that it wasn't true? Of course they would not. Like those disciples, we too can live our lives in the light of that truth, no longer enslaved by sin but alive in Christ. 'Know the truth' said Jesus, 'and the truth shall set you free' (John 8.32).

The second answer is about significance. The Gospel of Jesus Christ tells us who we are.

We are not just bundles of dust and DNA in an endless Cosmos. We matter to God. We have significance to him and in him. He knows us inside out. Jesus tells us that 'even the hairs of your head are all counted. So don't be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows'.

That does not mean that life is going to be all smooth sailing. But it does mean that in the storms of life you need not be afraid because he is there alongside you. You matter to him. You are never forgotten. And let me say this: If you're not facing challenges in your life of faith, it might just be that the question you need to ask yourself is not why others are going through such things but why you are not. It might be that you need the encouragement to 'push out from the shore' and let the wind of the Spirit fill your sails to take you on a journey of discovery.

Who knows where that journey will take you, except that God will be there with you, even when storms do come, as they surely will.' And if you keep trusting him, keep putting your faith in him, that faith will make a profound difference to your life and to the lives of those around you - which brings me to the third answer:

The Gospel of Jesus Christ gives purpose to the lives of those who put their faith in him.

As one Christian writer put it, “Don’t tell me what you believe. Tell me what difference it makes that you believe”.

God wants us to love people. He calls his followers to be peacemakers and bridge-builders. But sometimes your faith is going to make you unpopular and you will encounter opposition. Problems will arise. There are countless examples of people who have made a difference to the lives of others by the ways in which they have lived out their faith and made known the love of God in word and deed. Many of those people have been much loved, but many have also been reviled, misunderstood, mocked and even killed.

This is to be expected, even sometimes within families. Jesus even talks about setting ‘a man against his father and a daughter against her mother’, although I should add a note of caution here: Sadly, religious leaders have too often misused this passage to exercise unhealthy control over their followers by requiring them to sever all family relationships. What these difficult verses suggest, at least, is that there are exceptional circumstances when following Jesus with integrity will be more important than even our most cherished familial relationships. Taking up a cross – will, at times, require being more committed to truth-telling than keeping friendships.

That said, you should also know that you do not face these problems alone. God in his great love for you is with you, and ‘is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.’ (Ephesians 4.20)

There’s an old hymn that goes something like this:

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life  
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife?  
When the strong tides lift and the cables strain  
Will your anchor drift or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul  
Steadfast and sure while the billows roll  
Fastened to the rock which cannot move  
Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love.

It is when we are anchored in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and putting our trust in him, that we are able to face all that life can throw at us, knowing the ultimate truth that we are loved, and that our lives have significance and purpose in him. May that be true of you and of me, whatever tomorrow may bring.