

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 14 February 2021

6th Sunday after Epiphany

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 Cantic, A Song of Isaiah

'Behold, God is my salvation:
I will trust and will not be afraid;
'For the Lord God is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.'
With joy you will draw water:
from the wells of salvation.
On that day you will say:
'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;
'Make known his deeds among the nations:
proclaim that his name is exalted.
'Sing God's praises, who has triumphed gloriously:
let this be known in all the world.
'Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion:
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

Isaiah 12.2-6

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

I will exalt you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
from the depths: and have not suffered my foes to
triumph over me.
O Lord my God, I cried to you: and you have made
me whole.
You brought me back, O Lord, from the land of
silence: you saved my life from among those that
go down to the Pit.
Sing praises to the Lord, all you his faithful ones: and
give thanks to his holy name.
For if in his anger is havoc, in his good favour is life:
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in
the morning.
In my prosperity I said 'I shall never be moved: your
goodness, O Lord, has set me on so firm a hill.'

Then you hid your face from me: and I was greatly dismayed.
 I cried to you, O God: and made my petition humbly to my Lord.
 ‘What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit: can the dust give you thanks, or declare your faithfulness?
 ‘Hear, O Lord, and be merciful: O Lord, be my helper.’
 You have turned my lamentation into dancing: you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with joy,
 That my heart may sing your praise and never be silent: O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

(30)

Lord, you hide your face when we trust in ourselves; strip us of false security and re-clothe us in your praise, that we may know you as the one who raises us from death, as you raised your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reading from the First Testament (Hebrew Bible)

A reading from the second book of Kings.

Naaman, a general for the king of Aram, was a great man and highly regarded by his master, because through him the Lord had given victory to Aram. This man was a mighty warrior, but he had a skin disease. Now Aramean raiding parties had gone out and captured a young girl from the land of Israel. She served Naaman’s wife.

She said to her mistress, “I wish that my master could come before the prophet who lives in Samaria. He would cure him of his skin disease.” So Naaman went and told his master what the young girl from the land of Israel had said.

Then Aram’s king said, “Go ahead. I will send a letter to Israel’s king.”

So Naaman left. He took along ten kikkars of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. He brought the letter to Israel’s king. It read, “Along with this letter I’m sending you my servant Naaman so you can cure him of his skin disease.”

When the king of Israel read the letter, he ripped his clothes. He said, “What? Am I God to hand out death and life? But this king writes me, asking me to cure someone of his skin disease! You must realize that he wants to start a fight with me.”

When Elisha the man of God heard that Israel’s king had ripped his clothes, he sent word to the king: “Why did you rip your clothes? Let the man come to me. Then he’ll know that there’s a prophet in Israel.” Naaman arrived with his horses and chariots. He stopped at the door of Elisha’s house. Elisha sent out

a messenger who said, “Go and wash seven times in the Jordan River. Then your skin will be restored and become clean.”

But Naaman went away in anger. He said, “I thought for sure that he’d come out, stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the bad spot, and cure the skin disease. Aren’t the rivers in Damascus, the Abana and the Pharpar, better than all Israel’s waters? Couldn’t I wash in them and get clean?” So he turned away and proceeded to leave in anger.

Naaman’s servants came up to him and spoke to him: “Our father, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, wouldn’t you have done it? All he said to you was, ‘Wash and become clean.’” So Naaman went down and bathed in the Jordan seven times, just as the man of God had said. His skin was restored like that of a young boy, and he became clean.

(5.1-14; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

A man with a skin disease approached Jesus, fell to his knees, and begged, “If you want, you can make me clean.”

Incensed, Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, “I do want to. Be clean.” Instantly, the skin disease left him, and he was clean. Sternly, Jesus sent him away, saying, “Don’t say anything to anyone. Instead, go and show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifice for your cleansing that Moses commanded. This will be a testimony to them.” Instead, he went out and started talking freely and spreading the news so that Jesus wasn’t able to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, but people came to him from everywhere.

(1.40-45; 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

Everliving God, your Son, Jesus Christ, healed the lepers and brought good news to the despised and outcast: grant us your gifts of compassion and self-control, that in serving others in their need we may strive for the imperishable wreath that you bestow on all who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings.

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