

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 8 August 2021
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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.

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 Opening Cantic, 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.

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.

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our
sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in
all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Psalm

Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord: Lord,
hear my voice;
O let your ears consider well: the voice of my
supplication.
If you, Lord, should note what we do wrong: who
then, O Lord, could stand?

But there is forgiveness with you: so that you shall be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him: and in his word is my hope.

My soul looks for the Lord: more than watchmen for the morning, more, I say, than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy: and with him is ample redemption.

He will redeem Israel: from the multitude of their sins.

(130)

Father, we commend to your faithful love those who are crying from the depths; help them to watch and pray through their time of darkness, in sure hope of the dawn of your forgiveness and redemption; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading from the First Testament (Hebrew Bible)

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The king gave orders to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai: "For my sake, protect my boy Absalom." All the troops heard what the king ordered regarding Absalom to all the commanders.

So the troops marched into the field to meet the Israelites. The battle was fought in the Ephraim forest. The army of Israel was defeated there by David's soldiers. A great slaughter of twenty thousand men took place that day. The battle spread out over the entire countryside, and the forest devoured more soldiers than the sword that day.

Absalom came upon some of David's men. Absalom was riding on a mule, and the mule went under the tangled branches of a large oak tree. Absalom's head got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in mid-air while the mule under him kept on going.

...

Joab said, "I won't waste time like this with you!" He took three sticks in his hand and drove them into Absalom's chest while he was still alive in the oak.

...

Then the Cushite arrived and said, "My master the king: Listen to this good news! The LORD has vindicated you this day against the power of all who rose up against you."

The king said to the Cushite, "Is my boy Absalom okay?"

The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my master the king and all who rise up against you to hurt you end up like that young man."

The king trembled. He went up to the room over the gate and cried. As he went, he said, "Oh, my son

Absalom! Oh, my son! My son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you! Oh, Absalom, my son! My son!"

(18.5-9, 14, 31-33; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

Reading from the New Testament

A reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The Jewish opposition grumbled about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

They asked, "Isn't this Jesus, Joseph's son, whose mother and father we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

Jesus responded, "Don't grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless they are drawn to me by the Father who sent me, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets, And they will all be taught by God. Everyone who has listened to the Father and learned from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father. I assure you, whoever believes has eternal life.

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that whoever eats from it will never die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

(6.35-51; 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, A Song of God's Grace

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ: for you have blessed us in Christ
Jesus with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly
places.

You chose us to be yours in Christ before the
foundation of the world: that we should be holy
and blameless before you.

In love you destined us to be your children, through
Jesus Christ: according to the purpose of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace: which you
freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.'

Ephesians 1.3-6

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

Grant, O Lord, that we may see in you the fulfilment
of all our need, and may turn from every false
satisfaction to feed on the true and living bread that
you have given us in Jesus Christ; who lives and
reigns with you and 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).*