Anglican Parish of Altona/Laverton

MORNING PRAYER

Sunday 19 September 2021 Seventeenth 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.

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

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

Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly: nor followed the way of sinners, nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

But their delight is in the law of the Lord: and on that law will they ponder day and night.

They are like trees planted beside streams of water: that yield their fruit in due season.

Their leaves also shall not wither: and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.

As for the ungodly, it is not so with them: they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement: nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Christ our wisdom, give us delight in your law, that we may bear fruits of patience and peace in the kingdom of the righteous; for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

Reading from the First Testament (Hebrew Bible)

A competent wife, how does one find her? Her value is far above pearls.

Her husband entrusts his heart to her, and with her he will have all he needs.

She brings him good and not trouble all the days of her life.

She seeks out wool and flax; she works joyfully with her hands.

She is like a fleet of merchant ships, bringing food from a distance.

She gets up while it is still night, providing food for her household, even some for her female servants.

She surveys a field and acquires it; from her own resources, she plants a vineyard.

She works energetically; her arms are powerful.

She realizes that her trading is successful; she doesn't put out her lamp at night.

She puts her hands to the spindle;

her palms grasp the whorl.

She reaches out to the needy; she stretches out her hands to the poor.

She doesn't fear for her household when it snows, because they are all dressed in warm clothes.

She makes bedspreads for herself;

fine linen and purple are her clothing.

Her husband is known in the city gates when he sits with the elders of the land.

She makes garments and sells them; she supplies sashes to traders.

Strength and honour are her clothing; she is confident about the future.

Her mouth is full of wisdom;

kindly teaching is on her tongue.

She is vigilant over the activities of her household; she doesn't eat the food of laziness.

Her children bless her;

her husband praises her:

"Many women act competently,

but you surpass them all!"

Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.

Let her share in the results of her work; let her deeds praise her in the city gates.

(31.10-31; CEB)

Here ends the first reading.

Reading from the New Testament

(1)

A reading from the letter of James

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

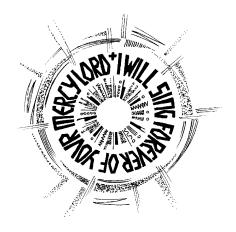
(2.1-17; CEB)

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, Te Deum Laudamus

We praise you, O God: we acclaim you as Lord. All creation worships you: the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven: the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you: The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you: Throughout the world, the holy Church acclaims you:

Father, of majesty unbounded: your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the King of glory: the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free: you humbly chose the virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death: and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory: We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood: and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

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

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet 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).