

Enriching Our Worship Morning Prayer

Friday September 18, 2020

Opening Sentence: God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*

Confession:

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

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

Leader: O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People: **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Venite

Antiphon: The Holy One is in our midst: **O Come let us worship.**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving * and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you are a great God; * you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it, * and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, * and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. *

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Antiphon: The Holy One is in our midst: **O Come let us worship.**

The Psalms *(choose one of the following)*

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; * my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, * that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; * my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live * and lift up my hands in your Name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, * and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed, * and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, * and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

My soul clings to you; * your right hand holds me fast.

Antiphon: **O God, you are my God; from break of day I seek you.**

Or

Psalm 67:1-5

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, * show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, * your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, * for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; * let all the peoples praise you.

Antiphon: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
or

Psalm 134

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

Antiphon: Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun.
or

Psalm 141:1-3,8ab

O LORD, I call to you; come to me quickly; * hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, *
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door of my lips; *
let not my heart incline to any evil thing. My eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD; *
in you I take refuge.

Antiphon: Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands like the evening sacrifice.

The Lessons

The First Reading: Acts 17:1-15

1 After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. 2 And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, 3 explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.' 4 Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. 5 But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market-places they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. 6 When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, 'These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, 7 and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.' 8 The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, 9 and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go. 10 That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Beroea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. 11 These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. 12 Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing. 13 But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Beroea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds. 14 Then the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind. 15 Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle: *A Song of God's Love*

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, and God's love will be perfected in us.

The Gospel Reading: John 12:36-43

36 While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.' After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them. 37 Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him. 38 This was to fulfil the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 'Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?' 39 And so they could not believe, because Isaiah also said, 40 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, so that they might not look with their eyes, and understand with their heart and turn and I would heal them.' 41 Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke about him. 42 Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

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Canticle: *A Song of Christ's Goodness*

**Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.**

**Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.**

**You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.**

**Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.**

**Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.**

**Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.**

**Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;
in your love and tenderness, remake us.**

**In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.**

The Apostles' Creed *(read in unison)*

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 again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again 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.

Leader: Hear our cry, O God.

People: And listen to our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray.

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. And your wonders among all peoples.

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. Never forget the lives of your poor.

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

The Collect:

God our rock and refuge: keep us safe in your care and strengthen us with your grace, that we may pray to you faithfully and love one another boldly, following the example of Jesus, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Concluding Sentence:

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*