

# Enriching Our Worship Morning Prayer

## Monday, October 12, 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 26:1-23**

1 Agrippa said to Paul, 'You have permission to speak for yourself.' Then Paul stretched out his hand and began to defend himself: 2 'I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, 3 because you are especially familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews; therefore I beg of you to listen to me patiently. 4 'All the Jews know my way of life from my youth, a life spent from the beginning among my own people and in Jerusalem. 5 They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I have belonged to the strictest sect of our religion and lived as a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand here on trial on account of my hope in the promise made by God to our ancestors, 7 a promise that our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship day and night. It is for this hope, your Excellency, that I am accused by Jews! 8 Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead? 9 'Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. 11 By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities. 12 'With this in mind, I was travelling to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13 when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. 14 When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads." 15 I asked, "who are you, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. 17 I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles to whom I am sending you 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and

from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” 19 ‘After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. 21 For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 To this day I have had help from God, and so I stand here, testifying to both small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would take place: 23 that the Messiah must suffer, and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.’

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: Luke 8:26-39**

26 Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me’ 29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) 30 Jesus then asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Legion’; for many demons had entered him. 31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. 32 Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. 34 When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 ‘Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.’ So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle: *A Song of Judith* (read in unison)**

**I will sing a new song to my God, \***

**for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.**

**Let the whole creation serve you, \***

**for you spoke and all things came into being.**

**You sent your breath and it formed them, \***

**no one is able to resist your voice.**

Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, \*  
rocks melt like wax at your presence.  
But to those who fear you, \*  
you continue to show mercy.  
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, \*  
but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

**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.**

**Collect of the Day: Pentecost, Proper 23**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**For All Sorts and Conditions**

O God, the creator and preserver of all, we humbly beseech you for all sorts and conditions of people; that you would be pleased to make your ways known unto them, your saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

**For the Poor and Neglected**

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For Those who Live Alone**

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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*