

New Zealand Morning Prayer

Monday, January 11, 2021

The Preparation; *Choose one of the following opening sentences:*

From the rising of the sun to its setting my name is great among the nations, and in every place incense is offered to my name, and a pure offering; for my name is great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. *Malachi 1:11*
or

It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.² *Corinthians 4:6*

Leader: Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise.

People: **Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honor, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.**

Song of Praise: The Time of God's Favor (read in unison)

Listen to me, you islands, and hearken you peoples from afar.

My servant, in the time of my favor, I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you;

To restore the land: and to share afresh its desolate fields;

To say to the captives, "Go free" and to those in darkness, "Come forth into the light."

They will feed beside the way, and find pasture on every barren hill.

They will neither hunger nor thirst, nor will the desert heat or the sun beat upon them,

For the one who loves them will guide them, and lead them besides the springs of water.

Shout for joy, O heavens, and exalt, O earth; break forth O mountains into song;

For I the Lord will comfort my people, and will have compassion on my own in their distress.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever.

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us praise and worship God who has called us together. Let us celebrate God's majesty, and delight in the wonder of God's love. Together we shall confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven. As the scriptures are read, we can allow God's word to speak to us, and ponder its meaning for our lives. In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness, we pray for others as well as for ourselves, and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service. All this we do, because we believe in the presence among us of our Savior Jesus Christ, and in the mighty power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear these words of scripture: *One of the following sentences is read.*

As God who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

or

If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth.

If we confess our sins, God is just and may be trusted to forgive our sins

and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

or

Love one another, for love is of God,

and whoever loves is born of God and knows God.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

Let us pause in silence, and remember our need for God's forgiveness.

Silence

Let us confess our sins to God.

Almighty and merciful God, we have sinned against you, in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with all our heart. We have not loved others as our Savior Christ loves us. We are truly sorry. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive our sins, strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word:

O come, let us sing to the Lord,

let us rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

We sing to you, O God, and bless your name;

and tell of your salvation from day to day.

We proclaim your glory to the nations,

your praise to the ends of the earth.

The Psalm: Psalm 1

**1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!**

**2 their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

**3 they are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.**

**4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

**5 therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.**

**6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

The First Reading: Ephesians 1:1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. with all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of

the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Song of Praise: *The Steadfast Love of the Lord* (read in unison)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases: God's mercies never come to an end;

They are new every morning: your faithfulness, O Lord, is great.

You are all that I have; and therefore I will wait for you.

You, O Lord, are good to those who wait for you: to all those who seek you.

It is good to wait in patience: for the salvation of the Lord.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-13

1 The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; 3 the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"' 4 John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. 8 I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' 12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

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,

is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

The Lord be with you.

The Lord bless you.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray

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 forever. Amen.

Make your ways known upon earth, O God,
your saving power among all peoples.
Renew your Church in holiness,
and help us to serve you with joy.
Guide the leaders of this and every nation,
that justice may prevail throughout the world.
Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Make us instruments of your peace,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

A Collect of the Day: The First Sunday after the Epiphany

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Collect for Morning:

Holy and ever-living God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another and to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

Let us go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.