

New Zealand Morning Prayer

Wednesday, January 13, 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 119:1-8

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, *
who walk in the law of the Lord!
2 Happy are they who observe his decrees *
and seek him with all their hearts!
3 Who never do any wrong, *
but always walk in his ways.
4 You laid down your commandments, *
that we should fully keep them .
5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep your statutes!
6 then I should not be put to shame, *
when I regard all your commandments.
7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, *
when I have learned your righteous judgments.
8 I will keep your statutes; *
do not utterly forsake me.

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 2:1-10

1 You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3 All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5 even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God 9 not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 1:29-45

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. 31 He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. 32 That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. 33 And the whole city was gathered around the door. 34 And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. 35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' 38 He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' 39 And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons. 40 A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' 41 Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' 42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. 43 After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, 44 saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' 45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

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.