

New Zealand Morning Prayer

Friday, January 15, 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 16

**1 Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other."**
**2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble among the people.**
**3 But those who run after other gods *
shall have their troubles multiplied.**
**4 their libations of blood I will not offer, *
nor take the names of their gods upon my lips.**
**5 O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.**
**6 My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.**
**7 I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.**
**8 I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.**
**9 My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.**
**10 For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.**
**11 You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

**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 3:1-13

1 This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles 2 for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, 4 a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. 5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to

humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: 6 that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. 8 Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10 so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him. 13 I pray therefore that you may not lose heart over my sufferings for you; they are your 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 2:13-22

13 Jesus went out again beside the lake; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. 14 As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. 15 And as he sat at dinner in Levi's house, many tax-collectors and sinners were also sitting with Jesus and his disciples for there were many who followed him. 16 When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax-collectors, they said to his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' 17 When Jesus heard this, he said to them, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.' 18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, 'Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?' 19 Jesus said to them, 'The wedding-guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. 20 The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day. 21 'No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak; otherwise, the patch pulls away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. 22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and the wine is lost, and so are the skins; but one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.'

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.