

# *Enriching Our Worship Morning Prayer*

## *Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021*

**Opening Sentence:** Jesus said, If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.  
*Mark 8:34*

### **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.**

### **The Venite**

Antiphon: Our God is full of compassion and mercy: **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: Our God is full of compassion and mercy: **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: Hebrews 4:1-10**

1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest is still open, let us take care that none of you should seem to have failed to reach it. 2 For indeed the good news came to us just as to them; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. 3 For we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, 'As in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest"', though his works were finished at the foundation of the world. 4 For in one place it speaks about the seventh day as follows: 'And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.' 5 And again in this place it says, 'They shall not enter my rest.' 6 Since therefore it remains open for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, 7 again he sets a certain day 'today' saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, 'Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.' 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not speak later about another day. 9 So then, a sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; 10 for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labors as God did from his.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle: *The Song of the Redeemed***

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done, \*  
surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \* O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name? \* for you only are the holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \*  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**The Gospel Reading: John 3:16-21**

16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**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, 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: The First Sunday in Lent**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan; Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**For Peace Among Nations**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**For Those in the Armed Forces of Our Country**

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For the Conservation of Natural Resources**

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; 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*