

**Wednesday Morning Prayer**

## 30 September 2020

*Saint Jerome (c. 347 – 30 September 420).*

**Wednesday Morning**

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;

in everything give thanks;

**for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.**

*1 Thessalonians 5.16–18*

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

*The Opening Canticle, A Song of God’s Grace*

Blessed are you,  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
for you have blessed us in Christ Jesus  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.  
You chose us to be yours in Christ  
before the foundation of the world:  
that we should be holy and blameless before you.  
In love you destined us to be your children,  
through Jesus Christ:  
according to the purpose of your will,  
To the praise of your glorious grace:  
which you freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

*Ephesians 1.3–6*

*The Opening Prayer*

The night has passed and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Psalm 72**

**1** Give the king your judgement, O God:

and your righteousness to the son of a king,

**2** That he may judge your people rightly:

and the poor of the land with equity.

**3** Let the mountains be laden with peace

because of his righteousness:

and the hills also with prosperity for his people.

**4** May he give justice to the poor among the people:

and rescue the children of the needy,

and crush the oppressor.

**5** May he live while the sun endures:

and while the moon gives light,

throughout all generations.

**6** May he come down like rain upon the new-mown fields:

and as showers that water the earth.

**7** In his time shall righteousness flourish:

and abundance of peace, till the moon shall be no more.

**8** His dominion shall stretch from sea to sea:

from the Great River to the ends of the earth.

**9** His adversaries shall bow down before him:

and his enemies shall lick the dust.

**10** The kings of Tarshish and of the isles

shall bring tribute:

the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.

**11** All kings shall fall down before him:

and all nations do him service.

**12** He will deliver the needy when they cry:

and the poor that have no helper.

**13** He will pity the helpless and the needy:

and save the lives of the poor.

**14** He will redeem them from oppression and violence:

and their blood shall be precious in his sight.

**15** Long may he live, and be given of the gold of Sheba:

may prayer be made for him continually,

may they bless him every day.

**16** Let there be abundance of wheat in the land:

let it flourish on the tops of the mountains;

**17** Let its ears grow fat like the grain of Lebanon:

and its sheaves thicken like the grass of the field.

**18** Let his name live for ever:

and endure as long as the sun.

**19** Let all peoples use his name in blessing:

and all nations call him blessed.

**20** Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel:

who alone does great wonders.

**21** Blessed be his glorious name for ever:

and let the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen, Amen.

We consecrate this day to your service, O Lord; may all our thoughts, words, and actions be well-pleasing to you and serve the good of our brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**1st Reading**

**Ezra 1**

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing:

“This is what Cyrus king of Persia says:

“‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and he has appointed me to build a temple for him at Jerusalem in Judah. Any of his people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them. And in any locality where survivors may now be living, the people are to provide them with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem.’”

Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.

Moreover, King Cyrus brought out the articles belonging to the temple of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and had placed in the temple of his god. Cyrus king of Persia had them brought by Mithredath the treasurer, who counted them out to Sheshbazzar the prince of Judah.

This was the inventory:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| gold dishes | 30 |
| silver dishes | 1,000 |
| silver pans | 29 |
| gold bowls | 30 |
| matching silver bowls | 410 |
| other articles | 1,000 |

In all, there were 5,400 articles of gold and of silver. Sheshbazzar brought all these along with the exiles when they came up from Babylon to Jerusalem.

**2nd Reading**

**Matthew 9: 27-38**

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, “Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.”

But the Pharisees said, “It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons.”

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

May your word live in us

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

*The Canticle, Te Deum Laudamus*

We praise you, O God:  
we acclaim you as Lord.  
All creation worships you:  
the Father everlasting.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven:  
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you:  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you:  
Throughout the world, the holy Church acclaims you:  
Father, of majesty unbounded:  
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,  
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the King of glory:  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you took our flesh to set us free:  
you humbly chose the virgin’s womb.  
You overcame the sting of death:  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God’s right hand in glory:  
We believe that you will come to be our judge.  
Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood:  
and bring us with your saints   
to glory everlasting.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy.

*The Lord’s Prayer and the Collect of the Day*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

**Prayer of the day**

O God,

whose blessed Son became poor

so that we through his poverty might become rich:

deliver us from an inordinate love of this world,

so that, inspired by the devotion of your servant N,

we may serve you with singleness of heart,

and attain to the riches of the age to come;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Intercessions and Thanksgivings may be made according to local custom and need.*

*The Morning Collect*

Eternal God and Father,

by whose power we are created

and by whose love we are redeemed;

guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,

that we may give ourselves to your service,

and live this day in love

to one another and to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in such harmony with one another in accord with Christ Jesus, that we may with one voice glorify our God and Father. **Amen.**

*Romans 15.5–6*