

**Friday Morning Prayer**

## 2 October 2020

**Friday Morning**

Through Christ let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God,

**the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.**

*Hebrews 13.15*

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*

We have complete freedom:  
to go into the most holy place by means of the death of Jesus.  
He opened for us a new way, a living way:  
through the curtain, through his own body.  
Since we have a great high priest  
set over the household of God:  
let us draw near with a sincere heart and a sure faith,  
With hearts that have been made clean  
from a guilty conscience:  
and bodies washed with pure water.

*Hebrews 10.19–22*

*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 77**

**1** I call to my God, I cry out toward him:

I call to my God, and surely he will answer.

**2** In the day of my distress I seek the Lord,

I stretch out my hands to him by night:

my soul is poured out without ceasing,

it refuses all comfort.

**3** I think upon God and groan aloud:

I muse, and my spirit faints.

**4** You hold my eyelids open:

I am so dazed that I cannot flee.

**5** I consider the times that are past:

I remember the years of long ago.

**6** At night I am grieved to the heart:

I ponder, and my spirit makes search;

**7** ‘Will the Lord cast us off for ever:

will he show us his favour no more?

**8** ‘Is his mercy clean gone for ever:

and his promise come to an end for all generations?

**9** ‘Has God forgotten to be gracious:

has he shut up his pity in displeasure?’

**10** And I say ‘Has the right hand of the Most High

lost its strength:

has the arm of the Lord changed?’

**11** I will declare the mighty acts of the Lord:

I will call to mind your wonders of old.

**12** I will think on all that you have done:

and meditate upon your works.

13  Your way, O God, is holy:

who is so great a god as our God?

**14** You are the God that works wonders:

you made known your power among the nations;

**15** By your mighty arm you redeemed your people:

the children of Jacob and Joseph.

**16** The waters saw you, O God,

the waters saw you and were afraid:

the depths also were troubled.

**17** The clouds poured out water, the heavens spoke:

and your arrows darted forth.

**18** The voice of your thunder was heard in the whirlwind:

your lightnings lit the world,

the earth shuddered and quaked.

**19** Your way was in the sea, your path in the great waters:

and your footsteps were not seen.

**20** You led your people like sheep:

by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Holy God, through your beloved Son you reconciled all things to yourself, making peace by the blood of his cross: fill us and those for whom we pray with your peace and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**1st Reading**

**Ezra 3: 9 - 4: 6**

**3** **9** And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.  
**10** When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord , the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel;  
**11** and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord ,  
‘For he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.’And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord , because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.  
**12** But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy,  
**13** so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away. **4**  
**1** When the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the returned exiles were building a temple to the Lord , the God of Israel,  
**2** they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of families and said to them, ‘Let us build with you, for we worship your God as you do, and we have been sacrificing to him ever since the days of King Esar-haddon of Assyria who brought us here.’  
**3** But Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of families in Israel said to them, ‘You shall have no part with us in building a house to our God; but we alone will build to the Lord , the God of Israel, as King Cyrus of Persia has commanded us.’  
**4** Then the people of the land discouraged the people of Judah, and made them afraid to build,  
**5** and they bribed officials to frustrate their plan throughout the reign of King Cyrus of Persia and until the reign of King Darius of Persia.  
**6** In the reign of Ahasuerus, in his accession year, they wrote an accusation against the inhabitants of Judah and Jerusalem.

**2nd Reading**

**Matthew 10: 16-27**

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

May your word live in us

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

*The Canticle, Saviour of the World*

Jesus, Saviour of the world,

come to us in your mercy:

we look to you to save and help us.

By your cross and your life laid down,

you set your people free:

we look to you to save and help us.

When they were ready to perish,

you saved your disciples:

we look to you to come to our help.

In the greatness of your mercy,

loose us from our chains:

forgive the sins of all your people.

Make yourself known as our saviour

and mighty deliverer:

save and help us that we may praise you.

Come now and dwell with us, Lord Christ Jesus:

hear our prayer and be with us always.

And when you come in your glory:

make us to be one with you

and to share the life of your kingdom.

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.**

 Grant, O merciful God,

that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus,

who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,

and in humility became obedient even to death.

For you have highly exalted him

and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

Jesus Christ, the Lord;

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, in everlasting glory. 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.**

Peace be to us all, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Ephesians 6.23*