

**Wednesday Morning Prayer**

## 13 January 2020

## *Hilary of Poitiers*

**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 35.1-17**

**1** Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me:

fight against those that fight against me.

**2** Take up shield and buckler:

and arise, arise to help me.

**3** Draw the spear

and bar the way against those that pursue me:

say to me ‘I am your deliverer.’

**4** Let those that seek my life

be put to shame and disgraced:

let those that plot my destruction

be turned back and confounded.

**5** Let them be like chaff before the wind:

with the angel of the Lord driving them;

**6** Let their way be dark and slippery:

with the angel of the Lord pursuing.

**7** For without cause

they have secretly spread a net for me:

without cause they have dug a pit to entrap me.

**8** Let sudden disaster strike them:

let the net that they have hidden catch them,

let them fall to their destruction.

**9** Then shall my soul be joyful in the Lord:

and I will rejoice in his deliverance.

**10** All my bones shall say ‘Lord, who is like you?:

for you deliver the poor

from those that are too strong for them,

the poor and needy

from those that would despoil them.’

**11** Malicious witnesses rise up against me:

I am questioned about things of which I know nothing.

**12** They repay me evil for good:

I am as one bereaved of my children.

**13** Yet when they were sick, I put on sackcloth:

I afflicted myself with fasting.

**14** And if my prayer returned unanswered to my bosom:

I went about mourning

as though for a brother or a companion;

**15** I was bowed down with grief:

as though for my own mother.

**16** But when I stumbled, they rejoiced and gathered together,

they gathered together against me:

as though they were strangers I never knew,

they tore at me without ceasing.

**17** When I slipped, they mocked me:

and gnashed at me with their teeth.

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**

**Genesis 2.4-35**

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens,

when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground;

but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—

then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.

The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold;

and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there.

The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush.

The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’

So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Then the man said,

‘This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

this one shall be called Woman,

for out of Man this one was taken.’

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

**2nd Reading**

**John 6.60-71**

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.’ Jesus answered them, ‘Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.’ He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

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*

**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, our heavenly Father,

who raised up your faithful servant Hilary

to be a bishop in your Church

and to feed your flock:

give abundantly to all bishops and other pastors

the gifts of your Holy Spirit,

so that they may minister in your household

as true servants of Christ

and stewards of your holy mysteries;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and 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*