

**Wednesday Morning Prayer**

## *Matthias*

## 24 February 2020

**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 80**

**1** Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,

you that led Joseph like a flock:

you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,

shine out in glory;

**2** Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:

stir up your power, and come to save us.

**3** Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

show us the light of your countenance,

and we shall be saved.

**4** O Lord God of hosts:

how long will you be angry at your people’s prayer?

**5** You have fed them with the bread of tears:

and given them tears to drink in good measure.

**6** You have made us the victim of our neighbours:

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**7** Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

show us the light of your countenance,

and we shall be saved.

**8** You brought a vine out of Egypt:

you drove out the nations, and planted it in.

**9** You cleared the ground before it:

and it struck root and filled the land.

**10** The hills were covered with its shadow:

and its boughs were like the boughs of the great cedars.

**11** It stretched out its branches to the sea:

and its tender shoots to the Great River.

**12** Why then have you broken down its walls:

so that every passer-by can pluck its fruit?

**13** The wild boar out of the woods roots it up:

and the locusts from the wild places devour it.

**14** Turn to us again, O Lord of hosts:

look down from heaven, and see.

**15** Bestow your care upon this vine:

the stock which your own right hand has planted.

**16** As for those that burn it with fire and cut it down:

let them perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

**17** Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:

on that son of man

whom you made so strong for yourself.

**18** And so we shall not turn back from you:

give us life, and we will call upon your name.

**19** Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

show us the light of your countenance,

and we shall be saved.

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**

**Isaiah 66.1-4**

1 Thus says the Lord :  
Heaven is my throne  
     and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
     and what is my resting-place?  
2 All these things my hand has made,  
     and so all these things are mine,  
  
says the Lord .  
But this is the one to whom I will look,  
     to the humble and contrite in spirit,  
     who trembles at my word.  
3 Whoever slaughters an ox is like one who kills a human being;  
     whoever sacrifices a lamb, like one who breaks a dog’s neck;  
whoever presents a grain-offering, like one who offers swine’s blood;  
     whoever makes a memorial offering of frankincense, like one who blesses an idol.  
These have chosen their own ways,  
     and in their abominations they take delight;  
4 I also will choose to mock them,  
     and bring upon them what they fear;  
because, when I called, no one answered,  
     when I spoke, they did not listen;  
but they did what was evil in my sight,  
     and chose what did not please me.

**2nd Reading**

**Matthew 7.15-27**

15 ‘Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? 17 In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will know them by their fruits. 21 ‘Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord”, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only one who does the will of my Father in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?” 23 Then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.” 24 ‘Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. 25 The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!’

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*

Almighty God,

who chose your faithful servant Matthias

to be numbered among the twelve apostles

in the place of Judas:

preserve your Church always from false apostles,

so that it may be guided by true and faithful pastors;

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*