

**Friday Morning Prayer**

## 26 February 2021

**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.**

**Psalms 137.1-6; 138**

**137**

**1** By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept:

when we remembered Zion.

**2** As for our harps we hung them up:

upon the trees that are in that land.

**3** For there those who led us away captive

required of us a song:

and those who had despoiled us demanded mirth,

saying ‘Sing us one of the songs of Zion.’

**4** How can we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?

**5** If I forget you, O Jerusalem:

let my right hand forget its mastery.

**6** Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth:

if I do not remember you,

if I do not prefer Jerusalem above my chief joy.

**138**

**1** I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart:

even before the gods will I sing your praises.

**2** I will bow down toward your holy temple

and give thanks to your name:

because of your faithfulness and your loving-kindness,

for you have made your name and your word

supreme over all things.

**3** At a time when I called to you, you gave me answer:

and put new strength within my soul.

**4** All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord:

for they have heard the words of your mouth;

**5** And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord:

that the glory of the Lord is great.

**6** For though the Lord is exalted, he looks upon the lowly:

and he comprehends the proud from afar.

**7** Though I walk in the midst of danger,

yet will you preserve my life:

you will stretch out your hand against the fury of my

enemies, and your right hand shall save me.

**8** The Lord will complete his purpose for me:

your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;

do not forsake the work of your own hands.

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**

**Genesis 42.1-17**

1 When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, ‘Why do you keep looking at one another? 2 I have heard’, he said, ‘that there is grain in Egypt; go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.’ 3 So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. 4 But Jacob did not send Joseph’s brother Benjamin with his brothers, for he feared that harm might come to him. 5 Thus the sons of Israel were among the other people who came to buy grain, for the famine had reached the land of Canaan. 6 Now Joseph was governor over the land; it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph’s brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. 7 When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them. ‘Where do you come from?’ he said. They said, ‘From the land of Canaan, to buy food.’ 8 Although Joseph had recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. 9 Joseph also remembered the dreams that he had dreamed about them. He said to them, ‘You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land!’ 10 They said to him, ‘No, my lord; your servants have come to buy food. 11 We are all sons of one man; we are honest men; your servants have never been spies.’ 12 But he said to them, ‘No, you have come to see the nakedness of the land!’ 13 They said, ‘We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of a certain man in the land of Canaan; the youngest, however, is now with our father, and one is no more.’ 14 But Joseph said to them, ‘It is just as I have said to you; you are spies! 15 Here is how you shall be tested: as Pharaoh lives, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here! 16 Let one of you go and bring your brother, while the rest of you remain in prison, in order that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you; or else, as Pharaoh lives, surely you are spies.’ 17 And he put them all together in prison for three days.

**2nd Reading**

**Luke 12.22-34**

22 He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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*

**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 Lord,

who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights:

give us grace to use such abstinence,

that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit,

we may ever obey your godly will

in righteousness and true holiness;

to your honour and glory,

who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God, world without end. **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*