

**Friday Morning Prayer**

## 5 March 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 15; 16**

**15**

**1** Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle:

or who may dwell upon your holy hill?

**2** Whoever leads an uncorrupt life

and does the thing which is right:

who speaks the truth from the heart,

and has not slandered with the tongue;

**3** Who has done no evil to a friend:

nor vented abuse against a neighbour;

**4** In whose eyes the worthless have no honour:

but who makes much of those that fear the Lord;

**5** Whoever has sworn to a neighbour:

and will not go back on that oath;

**6** Who has not put money to usury:

nor taken a bribe against the innocent.

**7** Whoever does these things:

shall never be overthrown.

**16**

**1** Preserve me, O God:

for in you have I taken refuge.

**2** I have said to the Lord, You are my lord:

and all my good depends on you.

**3** As for those who are held holy on the earth:

the other gods in whom people delight,

**4** Though the idols are many that they run after:

their offerings of blood I will not offer,

nor take their name upon my lips.

**5** The Lord is my appointed portion and my cup:

you hold my lot in your hands.

**6** The share that has fallen to me is in pleasant places:

and a fair land is my possession.

**7** I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:

at night also he has instructed my heart.

**8** I have set the Lord always before me:

he is at my right hand, and I shall not fall.

**9** Therefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:

my flesh also shall rest secure.

**10** For you will not give me over to the power of death:

nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

**11** You will show me the path of life:

in your presence is the fulness of joy,

and from your right hand flow delights for evermore.

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 45.1-15**

**1** Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, ‘Send everyone away from me.’ So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. **2** And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. **3** Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?’ But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. **4** Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Come closer to me.’ And they came closer. He said, ‘I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. **7** God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. **8** So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. **9** Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. **10** You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. **11** I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.” **12** And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. **13** You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.’ **14** Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

**2nd Reading**

**Luke 14.1-14**

**1** On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. **2** Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had dropsy. **3** And Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, ‘Is it lawful to cure people on the sabbath, or not?’ **4** But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him, and sent him away. **5** Then he said to them, ‘If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a sabbath day?’ **6** And they could not reply to this. **7** When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. **8** ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; **9** and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place”, and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. **10** But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **11** For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’ **12** He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. **13** But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14** And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.’

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*

Remember, O Lord,

what you have wrought in us

and not what we deserve,

and, as you have called us to your service,

make us worthy of our calling;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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*