

**Wednesday Morning Prayer**

## 17 March 2020

## *St Patrick’s Day*

**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 40**

**1** I waited patiently for the Lord:

and he inclined to me and heard my cry.

**2** He brought me up from the pit of roaring waters,

out of the mire and clay:

and set my feet upon a rock, and made firm my foothold.

**3** And he has put a new song in my mouth:

even a song of thanksgiving to our God.

**4** Many shall see it and fear:

and shall put their trust in the Lord.

**5** Blessed are those who have made the Lord their hope:

who have not turned to the proud,

or to those who wander in deceit.

**6** O Lord my God, great are the wonderful things

which you have done,

and your thoughts which are towards us:

there is none to be compared with you;

**7** Were I to declare them and speak of them:

they are more than I am able to express.

**8** Sacrifice and offering you do not desire:

but my ears you have marked for obedience;

**9** Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required:

then said I, Lo, I come.

**10** In the scroll of the book it is written of me,

that I should do your will:

O my God, I long to do it, your law delights my heart.

**11** I have declared your righteousness

in the great congregation:

I have not restrained my lips, O Lord,

and that you know.

**12** I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart:

I have spoken of your faithfulness and of your salvation.

**13** I have not kept back your loving-kindness and your truth:

from the great congregation.

**14** O Lord, do not withhold your mercy from me:

let your loving-kindness and your truth

ever preserve me.

**15** For innumerable troubles have come upon me:

my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.

**16** They are more in number than the hairs of my head:

therefore my heart fails me.

**17** Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me:

O Lord, make haste to help me.

**18** Let those who seek my life to take it away:

be put to shame and confounded altogether.

**19** Let them be turned back and disgraced who wish me evil:

let them be aghast for shame who say to me ‘Aha, aha!’

**20** Let all who seek you be joyful and glad because of you:

let those who love your salvation say always

‘The Lord is great.’

**21** As for me, I am poor and needy:

but the Lord will care for me.

**22** You are my helper and my deliverer:

make no long delay, O Lord my God.

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**

**Exodus 3**

**1** Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.  
**2** There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed.  
**3** Then Moses said, ‘I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.’  
**4** When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’  
**5** Then he said, ‘Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.’  
**6** He said further, ‘I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.  
**7** Then the Lord said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings,  
**8** and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.  
**9** The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them.  
**10** So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’  
**11** But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’  
**12** He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’  
**13** But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’  
**14** God said to Moses, ‘I am who I am .’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I am has sent me to you.” ’  
**15** God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The Lord , the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”:  
This is my name for ever,  
and this my title for all generations.  
**16** Go and assemble the elders of Israel, and say to them, “The Lord , the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying: I have given heed to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt.  
**17** I declare that I will bring you up out of the misery of Egypt, to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.”  
**18** They will listen to your voice; and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, “The Lord , the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; let us now go a three days’ journey into the wilderness, so that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God.”  
**19** I know, however, that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.  
**20** So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all my wonders that I will perform in it; after that he will let you go.  
**21** I will bring this people into such favour with the Egyptians that, when you go, you will not go empty-handed;  
**22** each woman shall ask her neighbour and any woman living in the neighbour’s house for jewellery of silver and of gold, and clothing, and you shall put them on your sons and on your daughters; and so you shall plunder the Egyptians.’

**2nd Reading**

**Luke 18.31-43**

**31** Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, ‘See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. **32** For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. **33** After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.’ **34** But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said. **35** As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. **36** When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. **37** They told him, ‘Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.’ **38** Then he shouted, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ **39** Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ **40** Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, **41** ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ He said, ‘Lord, let me see again.’ **42** Jesus said to him, ‘Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.’ **43** Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

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 and everlasting God,

we thank you for your servant Patrick,

whom you called to bring the gospel

to the people of Ireland:

raise up in this and every land

evangelists and heralds of your loving reign,

so that the whole world may know

the unsearchable riches of our Saviour Jesus Christ;

who lives and reigns with you and 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*