

**Wednesday Morning Prayer**

## 31 March 2021

*Holy Week*

**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 88**

**1** O Lord my God, I call for help by day:

and by night also I cry out before you.

**2** Let my prayer come into your presence:

and turn your ear to my loud crying.

**3** For my soul is filled with trouble:

and my life has come even to the brink of the grave.

**4** I am reckoned among those that go down to the Pit:

I am as one that has no help.

**5** I lie among the dead,

like the slain that sleep in the grave:

whom you remember no more,

who are cut off from your power.

**6** You have laid me in the lowest Pit:

in darkness and in the watery depths.

**7** Your wrath lies heavy upon me:

and all your waves are brought against me.

**8** You have put my friends far from me:

and made me to be abhorred by them.

**9** I am so fast in prison I cannot get free:

my eyes fail because of my affliction.

**10** Lord, I call to you every day:

I stretch out my hands toward you.

**11** Will you work wonders for the dead:

or will the shades rise up again to praise you?

**12** Shall your love be declared in the grave:

or your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

**13** Will your wonders be made known in the dark:

or your righteousness in the land

where all things are forgotten?

**14** But to you, Lord, will I cry:

early in the morning my prayer shall come before you.

**15** O Lord, why have you rejected me:

why do you hide your face from me?

**16** I have been afflicted and wearied from my youth upward:

I am tossed high and low, I cease to be.

**17** Your fierce anger has overwhelmed me:

and your terrors have put me to silence.

**18** They surround me like a flood all the day long:

they close upon me from every side.

**19** Friend and acquaintance you have put far from me:

and kept my companions from my sight.

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**

**Jeremiah 11.18-20**

**18** It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
     then you showed me their evil deeds.
**19** But I was like a gentle lamb
     led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
     that they devised schemes, saying,
‘Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
     let us cut him off from the land of the living,
     so that his name will no longer be remembered!’
**20** But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
     who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
     for to you I have committed my cause.

**2nd Reading**

**John 16.4b-33**

**4** But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. **5** But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” **6** But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. **7** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: **9** about sin, because they do not believe in me; **10** about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; **11** about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. **12** ‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. **14** He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **15** All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. **16** ‘A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me.’ **17** Then some of his disciples said to one another, ‘What does he mean by saying to us, “A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me”; and “Because I am going to the Father”?’ **18** They said, ‘What does he mean by this “a little while”? We do not know what he is talking about.’ **19** Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, ‘Are you discussing among yourselves what I meant when I said, “A little while, and you will no longer see me, and again a little while, and you will see me”? **20** Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. **21** When a woman is in labour, she has pain, because her hour has come. But when her child is born, she no longer remembers the anguish because of the joy of having brought a human being into the world. **22** So you have pain now; but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. **23** On that day you will ask nothing of me. Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. **24** Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. **25** ‘I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but will tell you plainly of the Father. **26** On that day you will ask in my name. I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; **27** for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. **28** I came from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father.’ **29** His disciples said, ‘Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! **30** Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.’ **31** Jesus answered them, ‘Do you now believe? **32** The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. **33** I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!’

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*

Everlasting God,
in your tender love for the human race
you sent your Son to take our nature,
and to suffer death upon the cross:
in your mercy
enable us to share in his obedience to your will
and in the glorious victory of his resurrection;
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*