



**Morning Prayer**  
**The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 23, 2020 9:00am**

**Ministers of the Liturgy**

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee  
Members of the Altar Guild  
Mary-Ellen Yaroshefski  
Allison Kee, Lisa Ruggiero, Mary Torian

**Musicians:** Randolph Bloom, Jeff Lukas

**Organ Prelude**      *Prelude in E Minor*

J. S. Bach

from Eight Little Preludes & Fugues

**Opening Sentence**

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect. [Romans 12:1-2]*

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

The holy and undivided Trinity, one God: **O come let us worship.**

**The Confession**

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your purpose. **Amen.**

**Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Opening Versicle & Doxology**

Let us lift up our voices in song, lift our arms in praise, and open our hearts in gratitude.

**Let us greet God with our hymn of praise.**

## **Venite [Psalm 95:1-7]**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \* let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \* and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \* and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \* and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \* and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \* and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

## **Psalm 138**

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; \*  
before the gods I will sing your praise.  
2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, \*  
because of your love and faithfulness;  
3 For you have glorified your Name \* and your word above all things.  
4 When I called, you answered me; \* you increased my strength within me.  
5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, \*  
when they have heard the words of your mouth.  
6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, \* that great is the glory of the Lord.  
7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; \* he perceives the haughty from afar.  
8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; \*  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.  
9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; \*  
O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

## **The First Lesson: A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [51:1-6]**

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord.  
Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.  
Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.  
For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.  
Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples.

I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope.  
Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be for ever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

### **Canticle: A Song of God's Love [1 John 4:7-11 ]**

Beloved, let us love one another, \* for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, \* for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, \* that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ. In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us \* and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven. Beloved, since God loved us so much, \* we ought also to love one another. For if we love one another, God abides in us, \* and God's love will be perfected in us.

### **The Second Lesson: The Gospel of Matthew [16:13-20]**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Song of Mary *Magnificat* Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him \* in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,\* he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,\* and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \* to Abraham and his children forever.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen.**

## **Musical Meditation**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **The Prayers**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray. God be with you. **And also with you.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

#### **The Suffrages**

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

**R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

V. Look upon your congregation;

**R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

**R. And your wonders among all peoples.**

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

**R. Never forget the lives of your poor.**

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

**R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

**R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

## Collect of the Day

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church, **that we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you, especially the members of the Altar Guild in every church, **that your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, especially our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop Douglas, our Interim Priest Judith, and all those who are preparing to serve you in new ministry, **that they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world,  
**that there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to fulfill your purpose in all that we undertake, and strengthen our commitment to share the Grace of God, the Light of Christ, and the Power of the Holy Spirit through worship, ministry, and fellowship, **that our works may find favor in your sight.**

We ask your blessing on our friends and companions, especially our students and their teachers as they prepare for a new school year and those we now name, silently or aloud [Pause]. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those whose lives were devastated by the tornadoes in Iowa and those who are suffering from the coronavirus and their families and caregivers, the frontline workers, and those who are feeling discouraged, or abandoned, or fearful about their future  
**that they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially those who have died alone and isolated, those who have been victims of violence, and those we now name, silently or aloud. [Pause] . . . Draw them to you in love, that they may rest in that place where there is no pain or grief.  
**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
**may we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

O God, make our hearts large, so that they may be big enough  
to share the greatness of your love,  
to hold all those who want to believe in you,  
to hold all those we sometimes forget,  
to hold all those who are no longer with us—  
so that we bring love and peace to everyone we meet. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer Attributed to St Francis**

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, **let us sow love;**  
where there is injury, **pardon;**  
where there is discord, **union;**  
where there is doubt, **faith;**  
where there is despair, **hope;**  
where there is darkness, **light;**  
where there is sadness, **joy.**

Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
**to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
**and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

### **A Prayer for the Altar Guild**

Gracious God, bless your Church and all who minister at the altars and care for sacred vessels and linens. We pray you to accept and bless the work that this altar guild undertakes in the care of your sanctuary. Give us an awareness of beauty and mindfulness in holy places that we may enable others to worship and set forward the coming of your Kingdom, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer in Time of Transition**

God of growth and discovery, yours is the inspiration that has changed our lives. Yours is the power that has brought us to take new risks and face new opportunities. You shape our dreams. May your Spirit guide us in our preparations to search for a new Rector: open our eyes to what is possible and what is unfinished; open our ears to words of wisdom that assure us and challenge us; open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined and to what we have neglected, that we may be both bold and humble; through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for those who have died from Coronavirus**

Lord, your ways are mysterious, and your purposes unknowable. But we know that when we feel sorrow, you feel sorrow, too. That when we suffer, you also suffer. That when we mourn, you mourn, as well. That when our hearts are broken, so is yours. Lord, we feel that sorrow now, that suffering now, that mourning now, and our hearts are breaking now that in this nation over 170,000 of our sisters and brothers have already been taken from us by this disease. Yet, we know that your Son who suffered death itself for us, is by our side, and shares our burden. So, Lord, comfort those who have lost, protect those who remain, and take those you have gathered into that greater light where pain, and suffering, and death itself exist no more. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for an End to Racism**

Good and gracious God, you invite us to recognize and reverence your divine image and likeness in our neighbor. Enable us to see the reality of racism and free us to challenge and uproot it from our society, our world and ourselves. Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others. Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities. Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy purpose. Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with compassionate understanding and unity. Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for Wisdom**

*by Marian Wright Edelman*

O God, who can turn our worries into wings of joys and our sorrows into songs of thanks, let not our hearts be so troubled by the tragedies of this life's moment that we lose sight of the eternal life in your kingdom... Strengthen our resolve to replace hatred with love, tension with trust, and selfishness with caring and community. Heal, O God, all our children so that those who hate and those who are hated, those who hurt and those who are hurt, may grow up in a world of peace, opportunity, and justice. **Amen**

## **A Prayer for Teachers and Students**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have committed to your holy Church the care and nurture of your children. Enlighten with your wisdom those who teach and those who learn, that rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship you and serve you from generation to generation; grant us the vision to imagine new ways to learn and to teach and to create safe and joyful places of learning, and grant us the compassion to understand different perspectives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for Social Justice**

<https://socialjustice.org>

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war; for we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation; for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice; for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair; for You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease; for You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power, to do instead of just pray, to become instead of merely to wish. **Amen.**

## **A Collect for Mission**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!