



Morning Prayer
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2020 9 am

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good
for his mercy endures forever. [Psalm 106.1]*

Ministers of the Liturgy

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Members of the Vestry:

Ginny Starkis & Susan Edmondson, Wardens

Edla Ann Bloom, Lucille Clinkman, Steve Ketcham

Lisa Ruggiero, Wayne Stochaj, Peach Warren,

Musicians: Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Jeff Lukas

Organ Prelude

Andante from Third Organ Sonata

Felix Mendelssohn

Opening Sentence

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. [Romans 15:13]

The Confession

Ann Rowthorn

Renew in us this day the image of your love; renew in us in the likeness of your mercy, O God. May any refusal to forgive that lingers with us, any bitterness of soul that hardens our hearts, be softened by your graces. Renew us in the image of your love, O God, renew us in the likeness of your mercy. **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.

The Invitatory and Psalter

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

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 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

1 To you I lift up my eyes, * to you enthroned in the heavens.
2 As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
3 So our eyes look to the Lord our God, * until he show us his mercy.
4 Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, * for we have had more than enough of contempt,
5 Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, * and of the derision of the proud.

A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah [1:7, 12-18]

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew [25:14-30]

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

Collect of the Day

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Almighty and Loving God, giving thanks for the revelation of your Word, we ask that you give to your Church throughout all the world unity and peace. May Christ's own compassion and honesty grow in us, that we may love and respect one another.

O Lord, hear our prayer. **And let our cry come to you.**

In thanksgiving for their leadership, we ask that you bless our Bishops, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop and Douglas our Bishop, and all ministers of your church, especially Judith our Interim Priest, that they may faithfully lead your people and inspire our faith.

O Lord, hear our prayer. **And let our cry come to you.**

In thanksgiving for the freedom you have given us, we ask that you bless those who rule the nations of the world and those who govern the states and towns of our own country, that they may lead us in compassionate justice.

O Lord, hear our prayer. **And let our cry come to you.**

In thanksgiving for the abundance with which you have blessed us, we ask that you sustain those families who have lost access to meaningful work, food, and health care, and who do not see a way forward. O Lord, hear our prayer. **And let our cry come to you.**

In thanksgiving for the grace of your loving presence, we ask that you heal the sick, comfort the sorrowful, and aid those who are in trouble, especially those we now name, silently or aloud. [Pause.]

O Lord, hear our prayer. **And let our cry come to you.**

In thanksgiving for the gift of our faith, we ask your blessing on all unbelievers and on those separated from you, that their ears and hearts may be opened and that they may turn to you.

O Lord, hear our prayer. **And let our cry come to you.**

Rejoicing in the communion of saints, we give thanks to you for all those who have departed this life in your faith, especially those we now name, silently or aloud. [Pause] Grant that we may rejoice with them in your eternal glory.

O Lord, hear our prayer. **And let our cry come to you.**

Let us pray:

Good and Gracious God, In Christ, we share a hope that our lives will be transformed by giving ourselves to your purpose. In Christ we share a hope that our life together will be a sign of your hospitality. In Christ, we share a hope that our witness will reach those hungry for good news. In Christ, you have blessed our lives, our congregation, and our ministry. Give us grace to be a blessing to you. **Amen.**

A Stewardship Prayer

Blessed be God who calls us together **Praise to God who makes us one people.**

Blessed be God who has forgiven our sin. **Praise to God who gives hope and freedom**

Blessed be God whose Word is proclaimed. **Praise to God who is revealed as love.**

Blessed be God who alone has called us.

Therefore we offer all that we are and all that we shall become.

Accept, O God, our sacrifice of praise.

Accept our thanks for all you have done.

Our hands were empty, and you filled them. Amen.

Musical Meditation *Come ye thankful people, come* Hymnal #290

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest-home;

All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin;

God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied;

Come to God's own temple come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;

Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown:

First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:

Grant, O harvest Lord, that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

A Litany for the Healing of our Country *from God's Good Earth*

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them. **Heal us.**

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them. **Forgive us.**

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, even though we often fall short of them. **Inspire us.**

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light. **Enlighten us.**

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again. **Renew us.**

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices join in one united chorus. **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 Facing the Coronavirus

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 245,000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for an End to Racism

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew, who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

A Prayer after the Election

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good: for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

For all the good things I do have	Thank you, God
For all the good things I have had	Thank you, God
For what I am	Thank you, God
For what I have been	Thank you, God
For what I can be.	Thank you, God
For what I shall be.	Thank you, God

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

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you and give you peace, and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

Let us go forth to be Christ's hands and heart in the world.

Thanks be to God.