



Morning Prayer
Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 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

Mary Frances Best, Pam Hennessy, Beth Stochaj, Millie Williams

Musicians: Randolph Bloom, Mary Johnson, Jeff Lukas

Organ Prelude

Phrygian Prelude

Flor Peeters

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 70

- 1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; * O Lord, make haste to help me.
- 2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
- 3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.
- 4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"
- 5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; * come to me speedily, O God.
- 6 You are my helper and my deliverer; * O Lord, do not tarry.

A Reading from the Book of Wisdom [6:12–16]

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

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 [25:1-13]

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was

a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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. 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 *Joyful, joyful we adore thee*

Hymnal #376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness fill us with the light of day.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,

Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day,

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 230,000 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.