

An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Give us the joy of your saving help
and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

*Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
we are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10)

**From Common Worship
Services and Prayers for the Church of England**

July 12, 2020

Blessed is the Lord.

for he has heard the voice of our prayer;

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

and in our song will we praise our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God,

creator and redeemer of all;

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world

and in your great love fashioned us in your image.

Now, through the deep waters of death,

you have brought your people to new birth

by raising your son to life in triumph.

May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts

as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy spirit:

Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn 48

O day of radiant gladness

1 O day of radiant gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm of care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright;
this day the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing "Holy, holy, holy" to the great God Triune.

2 This day at the creation the light first had its birth;
this day for our salvation Christ rose from depths of earth;
this day our Lord, victorious the Spirit sent from heaven,
and thus this day most glorious a triple light was given.

3 This day, God's people meeting, his Holy Scripture hear;
his living presence greeting, through Bread and Wine made near.
We journey on, believing, renewed with heavenly might,
from grace more grace receiving on this blest day of light.

4 That light our hope sustaining, we walk the pilgrim way,
at length our rest attaining, our endless Sabbath day.

We sing to thee our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
the Church her voice upraises to thee, blest Three in One.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence

As we rejoice in the gift of this day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and forever.

Amen.

The Word of the Lord

Psalm 65: (1-8), 9-14

[1 You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; *
to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

2 To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, *
because of their transgressions.

3 Our sins are stronger than we are, *
but you will blot them out.

4 Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there! *
they will be satisfied by the beauty of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.

5 Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation, *
O Hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the seas that are far away.

6 You make fast the mountains by your power; *
they are girded about with might.

7 You still the roaring of the seas, *
the roaring of their waves,
and the clamor of the peoples.

8 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your
marvelous signs; *
you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.]

9 You visit the earth and water it abundantly;
you make it very plenteous; *
the river of God is full of water.

10 You prepare the grain, *
for so you provide for the earth.

11 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; *
with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

12 You crown the year with your goodness, *
and your paths overflow with plenty.

13 May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, *
and the hills be clothed with joy.

14 May the meadows cover themselves with flocks,
and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; *
let them shout for joy and sing.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 55:10-13

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

A Song of David

1. Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,*
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
2. Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;*
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.
3. Riches and honour come from you*
and you rule over all.
4. In your hand are power and might;*
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
5. And now we give you thanks, our God,*
and praise your glorious name.
6. For all things come from you,*
and of your own have we given you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn 588

Almighty God, your word is cast like seed

Almighty God, thy word is cast
like seed upon the ground,
now let the dew of heaven descend
and righteous fruits abound.

Let not our selfishness and hate
this holy seed remove:
but give it root in every heart,
to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundred-fold
the fruits of peace and joy.

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon

Earlier this week someone from Southmont on the Neighborhood Digest sent out an alarm to warn everyone that someone was stealing roses from people's yards. Several of her rose blooms had been clipped off and taken away. In a matter of minutes many others in the neighborhood around her suggested that instead of people stealing her roses it was deer that had eaten them. Knowing that deer are present in the area, I find this a very plausible explanation. I just wasn't aware that deer eat roses. Deer have eaten several different flowers in my yard and they love tomato plants. This year, I have a plastic fence around the tomatoes which are in pots as well as a potted citronella plant right in front of the fence. The deer don't like the smell of the citronella. So far, none of the tomatoes plants have been eaten. My neighbor next door has been spraying a deer repellent around his tomato plants and so far none of them have been eaten. We shall see who wins this battle this year.

But what does that have to do with our Gospel reading today? What does that have to do with "the parable of the sower"? In Jesus' explanation of the parable, he likens the seed that the sower sows to the "word of the kingdom" or the word of God. Then he talks about how that word is received and whether it will eventually bear good fruit. With all that is going on in the world today, my thoughts have been going repeatedly to Jesus' teaching: Love God and love your neighbor as I have loved you. These two commandments are the basis for all that Jesus did and all that Jesus said. These two commandments are the basis for all the we do and say as well since we are Jesus to everyone we meet.

Those two commandments are the word of the kingdom that we sow into the world every day. The truth is that we can't just say the words we have to live them as well. We have to be examples of the people that hear the word, nurture the word and share the word to the world. That is not an easy thing to do and not all of God's people are willing to listen and change just because we say so.

A great example of this right now is how many people are wearing masks and social distancing when they are in public. It has been scientifically proven that wearing masks and social distancing reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Many of us understand this finding and are doing our part. Others, however, discount the scientific findings and refuse to comply. Others are more concerned with their freedoms to do what they please regardless of the consequences to themselves or anyone else. Others are listening to naysayers who do not believe that there even is a virus causing many deaths around the world. We have been given the gift of making our own choices but it is so frustrating to us Jesus people when the choices of some effect what happens to their neighbors even to the point of sickness and death.

The same is true about our desire to end racism. We can preach all we want that hatred and discrimination have no place in this world. We can teach and show by example that our community can be a nurturing environment for everyone but there will be people who continue to believe otherwise. There will be people who have no desire to change their ways of thinking. There will be people who continue to follow and believe those that are ignorant and work to keep bigotry and inequality present in our lives. There will be people who will fight those who want to bring about righteous change.

We are Jesus people. We, the people of St. Mark's are the church. We, the people of St. Mark's, must do our part to change the world. We, the people of St. Mark's must take the word of God and sow it out into the world like the sower in the parable. The sower didn't worry about what soil the seed would land on. The sower just sowed everywhere. We must do the same. We must sow the word of the kingdom everywhere and then follow through with preaching the word so that people understand it and preaching the word by doing what is right so that people see and comprehend what it takes to make a difference in our corner of the world. Meet and get to know people who are different from us. Learn how we are different but also learn how much we are the same. Let us do all we can to be sure that the word of the kingdom falls on good soil so that it is heard and understood. Then the people of Johnstown will "bear fruit and yield, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

*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.*

In peace, let us pray to Jesus our Lord,
who ever lives to make intercession for us.

Saviour of the world,
be present in all places of suffering, violence and pain,
and bring hope even in the darkest night.
Inspire us to continue your work of reconciliation today.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord of the Church,
empower by your Spirit all Christian people,
and the work of your Church in every land.
Give us grace to proclaim the gospel joyfully in word and deed
Lord, graciously hear us.

Shepherd and Guardian of our souls,
guide and enable all who lead and serve this community
and those on whom we depend for our daily needs.
Grant that we may seek the peace and welfare of this place.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Great Physician,
stretch out your hand to bring comfort, wholeness and peace
to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.
Fill us with compassion, that we may be channels of your healing love.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Conqueror of death,
remember for good those whom we love but see no longer.
Help us to live this day in the sure and certain hope of your eternal
victory.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon
you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they
ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to
accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, as our Savior has taught us,
so we pray

*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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

*For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God,
we thank you that you have brought us safely
to the beginning of this day.
Keep us from falling into sin
or running into danger,
order us in all our doings
and guide us to do always
what is righteous in your sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I 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.*

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life,
impart to us thoughts better than our own thoughts,
and prayers better than our own prayers,
and powers better than our own powers,
that we may spend and be spent
in the ways of love and goodness,
after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen

Support us, O Lord,
all the day long of this troublous life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed,
the fever of life is over
and our work is done.
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,
a holy rest, and peace at the last;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn 392

Come, we that love the Lord

Come, we that love the Lord,
And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord,
And thus surround the throne.
Hosanna, hosanna! Rejoice, give thanks and sing. *Refrain*

Let those refuse to sing
That never knew our God;
But children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad.
Refrain

The heirs of grace have found
Glory begun below;
Celestial fruits on earthly ground
From faith and hope may grow.

Refrain

Then let our songs abound,
And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Immanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high.
Refrain

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.*

Amen.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace, God's seal on our prayers.