

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9)

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

July 5, 2020

Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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.*

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 594

God of grace and God of glory

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown the ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us,
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to love and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

3. Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

5. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

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 145:8-15

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

10 All your works praise you, O Lord, *
and your faithful servants bless you.

11 They make known the glory of your kingdom *
and speak of your power;

12 That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *
your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14 The Lord is faithful in all his words *
and merciful in all his deeds.

15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

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.

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble
and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off
the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the
battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends
of the earth. As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with
you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to
your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore
to you double.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears
you will appear with him in glory.

*Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.*

from Colossians 3

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I
do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that
the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that
dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that
is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not
do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do
what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells
within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies
close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I
see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind,
making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.
Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn 302

Father, we thank thee who has planted

1 Father, we thank Thee who hast planted
Thy holy Name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus Thy Son to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,
didst give man food for all his days,
giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the power, be Thine the praise.

2 Watch o'er Thy church, O Lord, in mercy,
save it from evil, guard it still.
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,
cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
was in this broken bread made one,
so from all lands Thy church be gathered
into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father;

and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

If you remember, these words are part of a series of passages known as "the comfortable words" from the liturgy of Holy Eucharist Rite I. They are not said every time that liturgy is said but every time I read them I am comforted, especially if I am experiencing a difficult time in my life. I hope you are able to find comfort in these words as well, especially now.

Life is crazy at the moment. We are anxious. We are confused. We are enraged, We are looking for answers and not finding them. Life has a "new normal". We have to have a mask with us when we go out in public and put it on if we cannot socially distance ourselves. Our police officers must be careful of every gesture, word and action because they are being scrutinized as never before. Our black and brown neighbors are demanding their freedom to live their lives peaceably and without fear because of the color of their skin. Our LGBTQ brothers and sisters are still looking for their freedom to live their lives without fear and reprisal.

I miss being able to hug a friend when we meet on the street. I miss being able to go to a restaurant to eat. I missed being able to go to the stadium to see and hear the symphony play patriotic music on the 4th of July and enjoy the fireworks with my Johnstown neighbors. I miss going to Virginia to see my brother and his family. I miss seeing all of you in church Saturdays and Sundays and receiving the Body and Blood of Christ every week. We live in a very different world and the chances of life ever going back to way it was are slim to none.

Some of the changes will be for the better. When we learn to respect the dignity of every human being and eliminate hatred and bigotry, life will be better for all. When we learn that our planet cannot continue to sustain us unless we change our way of living and eliminate pollution and move to renewable energy sources, life will be better for all. When we learn to love as Christ loves us, life will be better for all.

But those changes are a long time into the future. Yes, we are making a start but it will take time and a lot of energy on everyone's part to make the changes that need to be made and get everyone to agree to them.

I don't know about you but I feel weary and I am heavy laden. I worry and pray every day for all of you, my family and the world. I wonder if this virus will be beaten in my life time. I wonder if racism and all the other "isms" will be eliminated and God's peace allowed to reign over the world. It's a big question mark.

In the meantime, I will turn to Jesus to find rest for my soul. I will turn over my concerns to God. Then my yoke and my burden will be light and I can open my eyes and rejoice in creation for another day. I will make it through the uncertainty and anxiety because I have given them to God. Then, I will believe that "All will be well."

Amen.

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.*

Let us by prayer and intercession with thanksgiving
make our requests to God.

Gracious God,
we pray for peace, justice and reconciliation throughout the world.
We pray for the honouring of human rights, and for the relief of the
oppressed. We give thanks for all that is gracious in the lives of men,
women and children. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

We pray for the renewal of the Church in faith, love and service.
We pray for Dorsey our bishop and for the life of this parish of St.
Mark's. We give thanks for the gift of your word,
the grace of the sacraments
and the fellowship of your people. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

We pray for this local community
and for all people in their daily life and work.
We pray for the young and the elderly,
for families, and all who are alone.
We give thanks for human skill and creativity
and all that reveals your loveliness. *Lord, graciously hear us.*

We pray for those who are in need;
for the sick, sorrowful and bereaved.
We pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing.
We give thanks for human love and friendship
and for all that enriches our daily lives. *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 God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving
you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we
may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another
with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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.*

Heavenly Father,
in your Son Jesus Christ
you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.
Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,
that we may live as those who believe in
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins
and the resurrection to eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the way, the truth and the life:
let us not stray from you who are the way,
nor distrust your promises who are the truth,
nor rest in anything but you who are the life,
for beyond you there is nothing to be desired
neither in heaven nor in earth.

Amen.

from a prayer of Erasmus (1536)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery,
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence
carry out the work of our salvation:
and let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up
and things which had grown old are being made new
and that all things are returning to perfection
through him from whom they took their origin,
even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gelasian Sacramentary (8th century)

A General Thanksgiving

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks
for all your goodness and loving kindness.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful,
and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our
lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Hymn 718

God of our fathers

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
Our grateful songs before Thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past,
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our ruler, guardian, guide and stay,
Thy Word our law, Thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence,
Be Thy strong arm our ever sure defense;
Thy true religion in our hearts increase,
Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.

Refresh Thy people on their toilsome way,
Lead us from night to never-ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever Thine.

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.