

# Morning Prayer for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16)

*From Book of Common Prayer 1979*

**August 23 , 2020**

## Hymn 427

When morning gilds the sky

1 When morning gilds the skies  
My heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer,  
To Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

2 When mirth for music longs,  
This is my song of songs:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
When evening shadows fall,  
This rings my curfew call,  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

3 No lovelier antiphon  
In all high Heav'n is known  
Than, Jesus Christ be praised!  
There to th' eternal Word  
The eternal psalm is heard:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4 Ye nations of mankind,  
In this your concord find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

5 Sing, suns and stars of space,  
Sing, ye that see His face,  
Sing, Jesus Christ be praised!  
God's whole creation o'er,  
For aye and evermore  
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!

The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him. *John 4:23*

### **Confession of Sin**

The Officiant says to the people

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

*Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our  
own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to  
have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to  
have done.*

*But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

The Officiant says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*

Officiant and People

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

*Alleluia*

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: O come, let us adore him.

**Venite** *Psalms 95:1-7*

*O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.*

*For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, \*  
and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his, and he made it, \*  
and his hands prepared the dry land.*

*O come, let us worship and fall down, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God, \*  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.*

*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \*  
and with righteousness to judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.*

### **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.

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

### **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*

### **7 We Praise Thee Te Deum laudamus**

*We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud,  
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.  
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.*

*The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.  
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world  
doth acknowledge thee,  
the Father, of an infinite majesty,  
thine adorable, true, and only Son,  
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.*

*Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,  
thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,  
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,  
in glory everlasting.*

## **Romans 12:1-8**

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.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in

proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord  
*Thanks be to God*

## **Hymn Levas 217 He's got the whole world in His hand**

1 He's got the whole world in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

2 He's got you and me, sister, in his hands. . . .  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

3 He's got you and me, brother, in his hands. . . .  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

4 He's got the pretty, little baby in his hands. . . .  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

5 He's got everybody here in his hands. . . .  
He's got the whole world in his hands.

## **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*

### **Sermon**

It can be confusing to read the letters written by St. Paul. Part of the problem lies in the fact that some of the letters were actually written by Paul and some were not but attributed to him for one reason or another. The letter to the Romans is one that scholars believe was actually written by Paul to try to send a message to the church in Rome that was having some difficulties among its members. In particular, he was making the observation that there is no difference between the Jewish Christians and the gentile Christians. Everyone was a member of the same body of Christ regardless of what they may have believed before coming to Jesus.

I said earlier this month that one of my favorite passages in scripture comes from Romans 8: “nothing can separate us from the love of God through Jesus Christ, our Lord.” Our reading for today from the same letter says “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.” I like this too, especially as we navigate the world we are living in now.

What is the will of God? How do we discern that? We need to be asking ourselves every minute as we speak, do, and live every day. We are making decisions that will impact ourselves, our families and our neighbors more than ever. When do I wear a mask? When do I wash my hands or use hand sanitizer? Oops, I have to remember not to touch my face. When I see someone being bullied, how do I safely step in and make a difference? When I see someone in need, how can I help? When I see a wrong being done, how do I change it to make it right? Do I send my children to school or do I keep them at home? Do I go to school to teach or do I not? Do I go to work or that meeting and possibly be exposed to Covid or do I not? Who do I vote for in

the coming election? Which candidate will lead this country or do their job in a Christian manner? Life has never been simple but it seems life is even more complicated than ever.

Paul states that we must be transformed by renewing our minds. Then we will be able to discern what is the will of God, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Renew our minds – read scripture daily, pray at every opportunity, and really ask ourselves is this something that Jesus would do or say? Are we making a difference as Jesus made a difference? Are we doing good and what is right in the eyes of God? Will God look at us and say “Well done, good and faithful servant”, or not. Be discerning at all times. God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are with you every second of every day. Use them to help you be Christ to everyone you meet. Amen.

### **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People*

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

# The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.*

*And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Dorsey, our Bishop, and Nancy, our Priest, that they may, both by their life and

doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President, and Tom, our Governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Please add your own petitions and thanksgiving at this time, either silently or aloud. (*Silence*)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially \_\_\_\_\_], beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of [\_\_\_\_\_ and of] all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

*The 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 General Thanksgiving*

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.  
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

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

**Hymn 522**

**Glorious thing of thee are spoken**

- Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God!  
He, whose Word cannot be broken,  
Formed thee for His own abode;  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.
- See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove:  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.

- Round each habitation hovering,  
See the cloud and fire appear,  
For a glory and a covering,  
Showing that the Lord is near;  
Thus deriving from our banner  
Light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna  
Which He gives them when they pray.

- Blest inhabitants of Zion,  
Washed in the Redeemer's blood!  
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,  
Makes them kings and priests to God;  
'Tis His love His people raises  
Over self to reign as kings,  
And as priests, His solemn praises  
Each for a thank offering brings.

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*