

# Morning Prayer for the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)

*From Book of Common Prayer 1979  
Psalm from the Saint Helena Breviary*

**September 20, 2020**

## Hymn 551

## Rise up ye saints of God

1 Rise up, ye saints of God!  
Have done with lesser things,  
give heart and soul and mind and strength  
to serve the King of kings.

2 Rise up, ye saints of God!  
His kingdom tarries long:  
bring in the day of brotherhood  
and end the night of wrong.

3 Lift high the cross of Christ!  
Tread where his feet have trod;  
and quickened by the Spirit's power,  
rise up, ye saints of God!

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity,  
whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place and  
also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to  
revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the  
contrite." *Isaiah 57:15*

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together

*Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.*

*We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

The Officiant says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People *And our mouth shall proclaim your 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: Come let us adore him.

**Jubilate** *Psalms 100*

*Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.*

*Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.*

*For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.*

### **Psalm 145:1-8**

1 I will exalt you, O holy God, \*  
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless you \*  
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3 Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised; \*  
there is no end to your greatness.

4 One generation shall praise your works to another \*  
and shall declare your power.

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty \*  
and all your marvelous works.

6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, \*  
and I will tell of your greatness.

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; \*  
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 You are gracious and full of compassion, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

*Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word, and  
Holy Spirit,\*  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.*

### **Jonah 3:10-4:11**

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord  
People *Thanks be to God*

### **11 The Third Song of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19*

*Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.*

*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.*

### **Philippians 1:21-30**

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will

remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The Word of the Lord  
People    *Thanks be to God*

### Hymn 660

### O Master, let me walk with thee

1 O Master, let me walk with Thee  
in lowly paths of service free;  
tell me Thy secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me Thy patience, still with Thee  
in closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong.

4 In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broad'ning way;  
in peace that only Thou canst give,  
with Thee, O Master, let me live.

### Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Word of the Lord  
People    *Thanks be to God*

### Sermon

### The Rev. Nancy Threadgill

Jesus says "the last will be first and the first will be last." He means there is no difference or distinction made in heaven or on earth. God does not show favoritism toward any person or anything. God is generous toward all. As with the workers in Jesus' story today that may appear to be unfair. It seemed to them that it wasn't right that the

workers that toiled in the hot sun all day got the same daily wage as those who had worked only one hour. Not only that, they worked in the late afternoon when it was cooler. That certainly did not seem fair to the workers who had worked all day. To be honest, in a way, I agree with them. It didn't seem fair to me either. That is, until I started to really look at it from God's point of view.

God loves all of creation, equally. God loves all of us, equally. God wants what is best for all of us, equally. So God gives us God's gifts, equally. We all receive God's forgiveness, mercy, and love, equally. The problem is that it doesn't seem that way to us. We see differences in wealth, health, beauty, fortune, fame, and everything else when we look at each other with our own eyes. We see that some of us have more than others. We see that some of us have more good fortune than others. We see that some of us have better health than others. We see that some have suffered more than others. We see that some of us are happier than others. We see that some of us are sadder than others. We are very good at seeing the differences. We are very good at comparing those differences especially in judging others. I wonder why that is? In truth, we need to learn to look at our neighbor through God's eyes not our own.

We are all made in God's image. We are all children of God. We have all been called by Jesus Christ to be like God in all that we see and do. Each one of us is unique. Each one of us has different genes and chromosomes, except perhaps for identical twins. Each one of us is influenced by our families, friends and the environment around us. Each one of us is different, yes, even identical twins because our individual identities are produced by the world along with the circumstances of our births. We each are an individual with differences from every other individual and yet God sees us as equal and treats us equally.

The hard part for us is trying to do the same that God does. Jesus gave of himself to everyone he met, equally. Jesus gave himself on the cross to everyone, equally. Jesus preached to love our neighbor as he loves us, equally. That is the part that is particularly hard for us. We see differences. We are called to see that we are all the same in our needs, our wants, and our yearning for God.. We must learn to not

see the differences in each other but see how we are all alike and act accordingly. We must learn to not see the differences but to see everyone for who he or she is and then love as Jesus loves us. Equally. It is not an easy thing to do. Remember that person I said that I despised last week. I have been focusing my love on that person all week. I have focused on how we are the same, not our differences. I have been trying to see that person as God sees that person. I have a long way to go, but it is a start. 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.*

## **The Prayers**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

## Officiant and People

*Our Father, who art in heaven, Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name, hallowed be your Name,  
thy kingdom come, your kingdom come,  
thy will be done, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those as we forgive those  
who trespass against us. who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, Save us from the time of trial,  
but deliver us from evil. and deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, For the kingdom, the power,  
and the power, and the glory, and the glory are yours,  
for ever and ever. Amen. now and for ever. Amen.*

## Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. *And grant us your salvation.*  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. *Let your people sing with joy.*  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. *For only in you can we live in safety.*  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. *Your saving health among all nations.*  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

## The Collect of the Day

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that

are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*For Social Justice*

Almighty God, who has created us in your own image:  
Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make  
no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use  
our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of  
justice in our communities and among the nations, to the  
glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please add your own petitions and thanksgivings at this time, either  
silently or aloud.

Silence.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and  
earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and  
strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

*A Litany of Thanksgiving*

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so  
freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and  
sky and sea.

*We thank you, Lord.*

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,  
revealing the image of Christ,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and  
our friends,

*We thank you, Lord.*

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering  
and faithful in adversity,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,  
*We thank you, Lord.*

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and  
promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
*To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the  
Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

*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.*

**Hymn 411**

**O Bless the Lord, my soul!**

O bless the Lord, my soul!  
His grace to thee proclaim!  
And all that is within me join  
to bless his holy Name!

O bless the Lord, my soul!  
His mercies bear in mind!  
Forget not all his benefits!  
The Lord to thee is kind.

He will not always chide;  
he will with patience wait;  
his wrath is ever slow to rise  
and ready to abate.

He pardons all thy sins,  
prolongs thy feeble breath;  
he healeth thine infirmities  
and ransoms thee from death.

He clothes thee with his love,  
upholds thee with his truth;  
and like the eagle he renews  
the vigor of thy youth.

Then bless his holy Name,  
whose grace hath made thee whole,  
whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:  
O bless the Lord, my soul!

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

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.*

*2 Corinthians 13:14*