

Wednesday 2 September 2020: Evening Prayer

GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

PREPARATION

We recognise our world is in need of healing.
Let us ask God for forgiveness for the times we have neglected to care for the gift of creation.

Jesus, healer of all.
have mercy on us.
Jesus, friend of the poor.
have mercy on us.
Jesus, beholder of beauty
have mercy on us.
Jesus, source of light and hope
have mercy on us.

Let us turn back to God with all our hearts as we say:
For your creation of the earth
we sing your praise.
For your closeness to the poor
we sing your praise.
For the smallest of creatures
we sing your praise.
For your tenderness and love
we sing your praise.

**May God, who is love, have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and lead us to everlasting life.
Amen.**

PENITENCE AND PRAISE

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

We gather in the image of the Creator
who is a community of love.

We gather in the name of the Redeemer
who reconciles all of creation.

We gather in the presence of the Life Giver
who inspires new life and renews it.

Praise be to the Holy Trinity! God is sound and life, Creator of the Universe,
Source of all life, whom the angels sing;
**wondrous Light of all mysteries known
or unknown to humankind, and life that lives in all.**

THE WORD OF GOD

A PSALM

Psalm 17

1 Hear my just cause, O Lord; consider | my com|plaint; ♦
listen to my prayer, which comes | not from | lying | lips.
**2 Let my vindication come | forth from your | presence; ♦
let your eyes be | hold | what is | right.**
3. Weigh my heart, ex|amine me by | night, ♦
refine me, and you will find | no im|purity | in me.
**4 My mouth does not trespass for | earthly re|wards; ♦
I have | heeded the | words •of your | lips.**
5. My footsteps hold fast in the ways of | your com|mandments; ♦
my feet have not | stumbled | in your | paths.
**6 I call upon you, O God, for | you will | answer me; ♦
incline your ear to me, and | listen | to my | words.**
7 Show me your marvellous | loving|kindness, ♦
O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand
from | those who | rise up a|gainst them.
**8 Keep me as the | apple •of your | eye; ♦
hide me under the | shadow | of your | wings,**
9. From the wicked | who as|sault me, ♦
from my enemies who surround me to | take a|way my | life.
**10 They have closed their | heart to | pity ♦
and their | mouth speaks | proud | things.**
11 They press me hard, they surround me on | every | side, ♦
watching how they may | cast me | to the | ground,
**12 Like a lion that is greedy | for its | prey, ♦
like a young lion | lurking in | secret | places.**
13. Arise, Lord; confront them and | cast them | down; ♦
deliver me from the | wicked | by your | sword.
**14 Deliver me, O Lord, | by your | hand ♦
from those whose | portion in | life •is un|ending,**
15 Whose bellies you | fill with your | treasure, ♦
who are well supplied with children
and | leave their | wealth •to their | little ones.
**16 As for me, I shall see your | face in | righteousness; ♦
when I awake and behold your | likeness, | I shall be | satisfied.**

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, ♦
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, ♦
and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

NUNC DIMITTIS *The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32 ELLC*

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant | go in | peace: ♦
your | word has | been ful|filled.
2 My own eyes have | seen the •sal|vation ♦
which you have prepared in the | sight of | every | people.
3 A light to re|veal you • to the | nations ♦
and the | glory • of your | people | Israel.

A CANTICLE

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, ♦
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, ♦
and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

A READING

Matthew 12: 22-32

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute; and he cured him, so that the one who had been mute could speak and see. All the crowds were amazed and said, 'Can this be the Son of David?' But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, 'It is only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons, that this fellow casts out the demons.' He knew what they were thinking and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand. If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? If I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his property, without first tying up the strong man? Then indeed the house can be plundered. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

ADDRESS

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

MAGNIFICAT *The Song of the Virgin Mary* *Luke 1: 46-55*

1 My soul proclaims the | greatness · of the | Lord, ♦
my spirit re joices · in | God my | Saviour,
2 who has looked with favour on his | lowly | servant; ♦
from this day all gene|rations · will | call me | blessed;
3† the Almighty has done | great things | for me ♦
and | holy | is his | name.
4 God has mercy on | those who | fear him, ♦
from gene|ration · to | gene|ration.
5 The Lord has shown | strength · with his | arm ♦
and scattered the | proud in | their con|ceit,
6 casting down the mighty | from their | thrones ♦
and | lifting | up the | lowly.
7 God has filled the hungry with | good | things ♦
and sent the | rich a|way | empty.
8 He has come to the aid of his | servant | Israel ♦
to re|member · the | promise of | mercy,
9 The promise | made to · our | forebears, ♦
to Abraham | and his | children · for | ever.

Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son, ♦
and | to the | Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be|ginning, is | now, ♦
and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Almighty God,
maker of all good things:
Father, Lord of all creation,
in Christ you have shown us the purpose of your providence,
and call us to be responsible in the world.

INTERCESSIONS

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

Creative Spirit,

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this Earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the Earth.

Creative Spirit,

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

Creative Spirit,

enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

In the wake of the COVID-19 global pandemic, hear our cries of compassion, and heal our world and all creatures. Inspire our hearts with a holy imagination, to rise, freed from the demands to produce and consume to imagine a just, sustainable way of living, where all have enough, and all may be restored.

Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

During this Season of Creation, grant us courage to observe a Sabbath for our planet. Strengthen us with the faith to trust in your providence. Inspire us with the creativity to share what we have been given. Teach us to be satisfied with enough. And as we proclaim a Jubilee for the Earth, send Your Holy Spirit to renew the face of the ground.

Enlighten our hearts and remain with your world.

We thank you for being with us each day.
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.
Creative Spirit,
enlighten our hearts and remain with your world. Amen.

(adapted from A prayer for the Earth, Pope Francis, Laudato Si)

THANKSGIVINGS

Almighty God, we give you thanks
for the order of created things, the resources of the earth,
and the gift of human life...

For the continuing work of creation,
our share in it,
and for creative vision and inventive skill...

For your faithfulness to us in patience and in love,
and for every human response of obedience
and humble achievement...

**May we delight in your purpose
and work to bring all things to their true end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than we to pray
and to give more than either we desire, or deserve:
Pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid,
and giving us those good things
which we are not worthy to ask
save through the merits and mediation
of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE ENDING

May God who established the dance of creation,
Who marvelled at the lilies of the field,
Who transforms chaos to order,
lead us to transform our lives and the Church
to reflect God's glory in creation. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

DISMISSAL

BLESSING