

**Wednesday Morning Prayer**

## 10 March 2020

**Wednesday Morning**

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;

in everything give thanks;

**for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.**

*1 Thessalonians 5.16–18*

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

*The Opening Canticle, A Song of God’s Grace*

Blessed are you,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
for you have blessed us in Christ Jesus
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
You chose us to be yours in Christ
before the foundation of the world:
that we should be holy and blameless before you.
In love you destined us to be your children,
through Jesus Christ:
according to the purpose of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace:
which you freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

*Ephesians 1.3–6*

*The Opening Prayer*

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

let us pray with one heart and mind.

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

**Amen.**

**Psalm 25**

**1** In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:

in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

**2** Let none who wait for you be put to shame:

but let those that break faith

be confounded and gain nothing.

**3** Show me your ways, O Lord:

and teach me your paths.

**4** Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:

for you are the God of my salvation.

**5** In you have I hoped all the day long:

because of your goodness, O Lord.

**6** Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:

for they are from of old.

**7** Remember not the sins of my youth,

nor my transgressions:

but according to your mercy think on me.

**8** Good and upright is the Lord:

therefore will he direct sinners in the way.

**9** The meek he will guide in the path of justice:

and teach the humble his ways.

**10** All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:

for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.

**11** For your name’s sake, O Lord:

be merciful to my sin, though it is great.

**12** Who are they that fear the Lord?:

them will the Lord direct

in the way that they should choose.

**13** Their souls shall dwell at ease:

and their children shall inherit the land.

**14** The confidences of God belong to those that fear him:

and his covenant shall give them understanding.

**15** My eyes are ever looking to the Lord:

for he will bring my feet out of the net.

**16** Turn your face toward me and be gracious:

for I am alone and in misery.

**17** O free my heart from pain:

and bring me out of my distress.

**18** Give heed to my affliction and adversity:

and forgive me all my sins.

**19** Consider my enemies, how many they are:

and they bear a violent hate against me.

**20** O keep my life, and deliver me:

put me not to shame, for I come to you for refuge.

**21** Let innocence and integrity be my guard:

for in you have I hoped.

**22** O God, deliver Israel:

out of all their tribulation.

We consecrate this day to your service, O Lord; may all our thoughts, words, and actions be well-pleasing to you and serve the good of our brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**1st Reading**

**Genesis 48**

**1** After this Joseph was told, ‘Your father is ill.’ So he took with him his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim.
**2** When Jacob was told, ‘Your son Joseph has come to you’, he summoned his strength and sat up in bed.
**3** And Jacob said to Joseph, ‘God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and he blessed me,
**4** and said to me, “I am going to make you fruitful and increase your numbers; I will make of you a company of peoples, and will give this land to your offspring after you for a perpetual holding.”
**5** Therefore your two sons, who were born to you in the land of Egypt before I came to you in Egypt, are now mine; Ephraim and Manasseh shall be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are.
**6** As for the offspring born to you after them, they shall be yours. They shall be recorded under the names of their brothers with regard to their inheritance.
**7** For when I came from Paddan, Rachel, alas, died in the land of Canaan on the way, while there was still some distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath’ (that is, Bethlehem).
**8** When Israel saw Joseph’s sons, he said, ‘Who are these?’
**9** Joseph said to his father, ‘They are my sons, whom God has given me here.’ And he said, ‘Bring them to me, please, that I may bless them.’
**10** Now the eyes of Israel were dim with age, and he could not see well. So Joseph brought them near him; and he kissed them and embraced them.
**11** Israel said to Joseph, ‘I did not expect to see your face; and here God has let me see your children also.’
**12** Then Joseph removed them from his father’s knees, and he bowed himself with his face to the earth.
**13** Joseph took them both, Ephraim in his right hand towards Israel’s left, and Manasseh in his left hand towards Israel’s right, and brought them near him.
**14** But Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands, for Manasseh was the firstborn.
**15** He blessed Joseph, and said,
‘The God before whom my ancestors Abraham and Isaac walked,
the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day,
**16** the angel who has redeemed me from all harm, bless the boys;
and in them let my name be perpetuated, and the name of my ancestors Abraham and Isaac;
and let them grow into a multitude on the earth.’
**17** When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him; so he took his father’s hand, to remove it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.
**18** Joseph said to his father, ‘Not so, my father! Since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.’
**19** But his father refused, and said, ‘I know, my son, I know; he also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.’
**20** So he blessed them that day, saying,
‘By you Israel will invoke blessings, saying,
“God make you like Ephraim and like Manasseh.” ’So he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.
**21** Then Israel said to Joseph, ‘I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your ancestors.
**22** I now give to you one portion more than to your brothers, the portion that I took from the hand of the Amorites with my sword and with my bow.’

**2nd Reading**

**Luke 16.1-13**

**1** Then Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. **2** So he summoned him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.” **3** Then the manager said to himself, “What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. **4** I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.” **5** So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, “How much do you owe my master?” **6** He answered, “A hundred jugs of olive oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.” **7** Then he asked another, “And how much do you owe?” He replied, “A hundred containers of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and make it eighty.” **8** And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. **9** And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. **10** ‘Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. **11** If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? **12** And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? **13** No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.’

May your word live in us

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

*The Canticle, Te Deum Laudamus*

We praise you, O God:
we acclaim you as Lord.
All creation worships you:
the Father everlasting.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven:
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might:
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you:
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you:
Throughout the world, the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded:
your true and only Son, worthy of all praise,
the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the King of glory:
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you took our flesh to set us free:
you humbly chose the virgin’s womb.
You overcame the sting of death:
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God’s right hand in glory:
We believe that you will come to be our judge.
Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood:
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy.

*The Lord’s Prayer*

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

*Prayer of the day*

Lord God, our Redeemer,

who heard the cry of your people

and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:

free us from the tyranny of sin and death

and, by the leading of your Spirit,

bring us to our promised land;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

*Intercessions and Thanksgivings may be made according to local custom and need.*

*The Morning Collect*

Eternal God and Father,

by whose power we are created

and by whose love we are redeemed;

guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,

that we may give ourselves to your service,

and live this day in love

to one another and to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in such harmony with one another in accord with Christ Jesus, that we may with one voice glorify our God and Father. **Amen.**

*Romans 15.5–6*