



**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER  
FOR USE AT HOME  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020  
The First Sunday after Trinity**

**THE GREETING**

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

**HYMN: ICH 487**

Soldiers of Christ, arise,  
and put your armour on,  
strong in the strength which God supplies  
through his eternal Son;  
strong in the Lord of hosts,  
and in his mighty power:  
who in the strength of Jesus trusts  
is more than conqueror.

Stand, then, in his great might,  
with all his strength endued;  
and take, to arm you for the fight,  
the panoply of God.  
To keep your armour bright  
attend with constant care,  
still walking in your Captain's sight,  
and watching unto prayer.

From strength to strength go on,  
wrestle, and fight, and pray;  
tread all the powers of darkness down,  
and win the well-fought day;  
That, having all things done,  
and all your conflicts past,  
ye may o'ercome, through Christ alone,  
and stand complete at last.

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

*Tune: ST. ETHELWALD William Henry Monk (1823-89)*

**OPENING RESPONSES:**

O Lord, open thou our lips  
**and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

**PSALM: 73**

Truly God is loving unto Israel \*  
even unto such as are of a clean heart.  
Nevertheless, my feet were almost gone \*  
my treadings had well-nigh slipt.  
And why? I was grieved at the wicked \*  
I do also see the ungodly in such prosperity.  
For they are in no peril of death \*  
but are lusty and strong.  
They come in no misfortune like other folk \*  
neither are they plagued like other men.

And this is the cause that they are so holden with pride \*  
and overwhelmed with cruelty.  
Their eyes swell with fatness \*  
and they do even what they lust.  
They corrupt other, and speak of wicked blasphemy \*  
their talking is against the most High.  
For they stretch forth their mouth unto the heaven \*  
and their tongue goeth through the world.  
Therefore fall the people unto them \*  
and thereout suck they no small advantage.  
Tush, say they, how should God perceive it \*  
is there knowledge in the most High?  
Lo, these are the ungodly, these prosper in the world, and these have riches in possession \*  
and I said, Then have I cleansed my heart in vain, and washed mine hands in innocency.  
All the day long have I been punished \*  
and chastened every morning.  
Yea, and I had almost said even as they \*  
but lo, then I should have condemned the generation of thy children.  
Then thought I to understand this \*  
but it was too hard for me,  
Until I went into the sanctuary of God \*  
then understood I the end of these men;  
Namely, how thou dost set them in slippery places \*  
and castest them down, and destroyest them.  
O how suddenly do they consume \*  
perish, and come to a fearful end!  
Yea, even like as a dream when one awaketh \*  
so shalt thou make their image to vanish out of the city.  
Thus my heart was grieved \*  
and it went even through my reins.  
So foolish was I, and ignorant \*  
even as it were a beast before thee.  
Nevertheless, I am always by thee \*  
for thou hast holden me by my right hand.  
Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel \*  
and after that receive me with glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but thee \*  
and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of thee.  
My flesh and my heart faileth \*  
but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.  
For lo, they that forsake thee shall perish \*  
thou hast destroyed all them that commit fornication against thee.  
But it is good for me to hold me fast by God, to put my trust in the Lord God \*  
and to speak of all thy works in the gates of the daughter of Sion.

Glory be to the Father:  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

#### **FIRST LESSON: I Samuel 21:1-15**

David came to Nob to the priest Ahimelech. Ahimelech came trembling to meet David, and said to him, 'Why are you alone, and no one with you?' David said to the priest Ahimelech, 'The king has charged me with a matter, and said to me, "No one must know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you." I have made an appointment with the young men for

such and such a place. Now then, what have you at hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.' The priest answered David, 'I have no ordinary bread at hand, only holy bread—provided that the young men have kept themselves from women.' David answered the priest, 'Indeed, women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition; the vessels of the young men are holy even when it is a common journey; how much more today will their vessels be holy?' So the priest gave him the holy bread; for there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; his name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's shepherds.

David said to Ahimelech, 'Is there no spear or sword here with you? I did not bring my sword or my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste.' The priest said, 'The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the valley of Elah, is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod; if you will take that, take it, for there is none here except that one.' David said, 'There is none like it; give it to me.'

David rose and fled that day from Saul; he went to King Achish of Gath. The servants of Achish said to him, 'Is this not David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his tens of thousands"?'

David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of King Achish of Gath. So he changed his behaviour before them; he pretended to be mad when in their presence. He scratched marks on the doors of the gate, and let his spittle run down his beard. Achish said to his servants, 'Look, you see the man is mad; why then have you brought him to me? Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to play the madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?'

#### **THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:**

**My soul doth magnify the Lord:**

**and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**

**For he hath regarded:**

**the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

**For behold, from henceforth:**

**all generations shall call me blessed.**

**For he that is mighty hath magnified me:**

**and holy is his Name.**

**And his mercy is on them that fear him:**

**throughout all generations.**

**He hath shewed strength with his arm:**

**he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**He hath put down the mighty from their seat:**

**and hath exalted the humble and meek.**

**He hath filled the hungry with good things:**

**and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

**He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:**

**as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:**

**and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:**

**world without end. Amen.**

#### **SECOND LESSON: Luke 11:14-28**

Jesus was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, 'He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.' Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he

knew what they were thinking and said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armour in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

'When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting-place, but not finding any, it says, "I will return to my house from which I came." When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.'

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!'

#### **THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:**

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.**

**Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.**

**To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:**

**and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:**

**and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:**

**world without end. Amen.**

#### **THE APOSTLES' CREED:**

**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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. 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 Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy Spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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. Amen.**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us  
**and grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen  
**and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness  
**and make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people  
**and bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,  
**because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us  
**and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

#### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee; Mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **COLLECT FOR PEACE**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

#### **COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

#### **OCCASIONAL PRAYERS**

##### *Prayer for greater love for God*

O God, the God of all goodness and of all grace, who art worthy of a greater love than we can either give or understand, fill our hearts, we beseech thee, with such love toward thee that nothing may seem too hard for us to do or to suffer, in obedience to thy will. And grant that, thus loving thee, we may become daily more like unto thee, and final obtain the crown of life which thou hast promised to those that love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

##### *Prayer for greater love for others*

O God, we know and believe in the love thou bearest towards us. May we, by dwelling in that love, dwell in thee, and thou in us. We would learn to love and to serve him whom we have not seen, by loving and serving our brethren whom we have seen; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

##### *Prayer for teachers and students*

Lord Jesus Christ, who showed on this earth thy love for children: Guide, we pray thee, with thy Spirit, those who are called to the ministry of teaching and education, and the children and young people engaged in learning during this uncertain and stressful time. Grant vision, enthusiasm, freshness of thought and clarity of purpose to both teachers and students, that nothing may hinder them from growing in knowledge, experience, faith and love. We pray especially for those who would have sat or be sitting important examinations, and all who will be unable to display the knowledge and abilities they

have worked hard to cultivate. Grant that appropriate support and grading be prioritised, that students be treated fairly and compassionately, that thy name may be honoured in the education of the young.

*Prayer for the financial life of the country*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, we commend to thy care and compassion the men and women of our land now suffering distress and uncertainty in relation to their employment and means of earning. Support and strengthen them, we beseech thee, and grant wisdom and genuine compassion to government officials and administrators, that due measures be set in place to protect jobs and to uphold struggling businesses. So prosper the counsels of those who are engaged in the ordering of our industrial and economic life that all may be treated fairly, preserved from want and fear, and enabled to work in security and peace, for the relief of their necessities and the well-being of our common life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Prayer for those from whom we are separated at this time*

O heavenly Father, who hast bestowed upon us the comfort of earthly friends, look in love upon those dear to us from whom we are separated. Protect them and keep them from all harm; prosper and bless them in all good things; suffer them never to be desolate or afraid, and let no shadow come between them and us to divide our hearts; but in thine own good time may we renew the fellowship of sight and hand; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

**THE GRACE**

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.**

**HYMN: ICH 372**

Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.

O magnify the Lord with me,  
with me exalt his name;  
when in distress to him I called,  
he to my rescue came.

The hosts of God encamp around  
the dwellings of the just;  
deliverance he affords to all  
who on His succour trust.

O make but trial of his love,  
experience will decide  
how blessed are they, and only they,  
who in his truth confide.

Fear him, ye saints, and you will then  
have nothing else to fear;  
make you his service your delight,  
your wants shall be his care.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
the God who we adore,  
be glory, as it was, is now,  
and shall be evermore.

*Words: Nahum Tate (1652-1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726) based on Psalm 34  
Tune: Wiltshire George T. Smart (1776-1867) from his Collection of Sacred Music (1863)*

**PRAYER OF BLESSING**

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

## **Belfast Cathedral Closure**

We regret that, due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to watch the cathedral website ([www.belfastcathedral.org](http://www.belfastcathedral.org)) or our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/>) for

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