



A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
Sunday 21st June 2020
The Second Sunday after Trinity

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new. *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 86:1-10, 16-17

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, ♦
for I am poor and in misery.

Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; ♦
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; ♦
I call upon you all the day long.

Gladden the soul of your servant, ♦
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, ♦
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer ♦
and listen to the voice of my supplication.

In the day of my distress I will call upon you, ♦
for you will answer me.

Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, ♦
nor any works like yours.

All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, ♦
and shall glorify your name.

For you are great and do wonderful things; ♦
you alone are God.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me; ♦
give your strength to your servant and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a token of your favour, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; ♦
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, 'Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.'

The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, 'Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring^a will be reckoned. I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.'

Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. Then she went off and sat down about a bow-shot away, for she thought, 'I cannot watch the boy die.' And as she sat there, she began to sob.

God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, 'What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation.'

Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

CANTICLE: Benedictus (*The Song of Zechariah* Luke 1:68-79)

**Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.**

**The Lord has raised up for us a mighty saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through the holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of those who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hand of our enemies.
Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous before him all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

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

SECOND READING: Matthew 10:24-39

Jesus said, 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

REFLECTION

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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 OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

As faithful disciples, let us pray to our Lord and Master for the Church and for the world.

Lord, give the Church grace to proclaim fearlessly the words of life. Grant us integrity, humility, compassion, gentleness and courage to use our voice to bring light, life, comfort and healing to bear in a divided world. Forgive your church for attitudes or historic actions which have supported the

enslavement of others. Send your strength to overcome all our weakness, so that all Christian people shall be valiant for the truth in the face of scorn and indifference.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that the word of God shall be heard in the dark places where people have not known the power of redeeming love. Have mercy on the weak and vulnerable who are precious in your sight and save them when they are oppressed. We pray for all vulnerable adults and children who, during this period of lockdown, find themselves at greater risk, and for all agencies that seek to support and protect them from harm.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give harmony to our families and to all who live and work in our communities. We pray for those from whom we are separated by physical or emotional distance. Reconcile those who are in dispute and mend broken relationships, so that human love may be as a light to reveal your divine love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Have mercy on those who are persecuted for their faith. We pray for missionaries and for our sisters and brothers who face serious risk because of their allegiance to Christ. Give them courage in their trials and grace to be constant in their service. Pardon and restore those who have been driven by suffering to deny their Master.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We acknowledge in our ongoing prayers of love those who took up their cross and followed their Master in this life and have now passed to eternal life with him, especially those dear to us individually, giving thanks for all who have been called into your eternal presence this week. May the light of heaven shine upon them as they rise in glory, and may we know the same grace, strength and courage that was at work in them in the living out of our lives as your followers.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May Christ our Lord be now and always acknowledged in our prayers.

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR KEY WORKERS:

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless who are called to care for the sick, including those suffering from or recovering from Coronavirus. Give your strength to all who work in Nursing homes, and all who give care in the community. Protect all who are returning to work in shops, businesses and schools. Help each to remember that they are fellow-workers with you; and give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those they serve. Guard them in their work, and watch over their families and loved ones in their anxiety for them. Protect our community from further waves of infection, we pray, and give wisdom to all who have responsibility for leading this society out of Lockdown. We ask this in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side and guide you in truth and peace: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

ICH 108

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
which did in Adam fail,
should strive in afresh against the foe,
should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace
should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence, and his very self
and essence all-divine.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
and in the depth be praise;
in all his words most wonderful,
most sure in all his ways.

Words: John Henry Newman (1801-90) from 'The Dream of Gerontius'
Tune: GERONTIUS John Bacchus Dykes (1823-76)

ICH 593

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my Friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control:
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory,
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.

Words: John E. Bode (1816-74)
Tune: MISSIONARY Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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) or
our Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/BelfastCathedral/>)
for this morning's online Cathedral Service
and for up to date news and online prayer resources.

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And follow the instructions.

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