



A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
Sunday 12th July 2020
The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:7*

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.

O 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: 119:105-112

Your word is a lantern to my feet ♦
and a light upon my path.

I have sworn and will fulfil it, ♦
to keep your righteous judgements.

I am troubled above measure; ♦
give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

Accept the freewill offering of my mouth, O Lord, ♦
and teach me your judgements.

My soul is ever in my hand, ♦
yet I do not forget your law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me, ♦
but I have not strayed from your commandments.

Your testimonies have I claimed as my heritage for ever; ♦
for they are the very joy of my heart.

I have applied my heart to fulfil your statutes: ♦
always, even to the end.

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 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.'

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

CANTICLE: Jubilate (*Psalm 100*)

**O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before his face with songs of joy.**

Know that the Lord he is God;

**it is he who has made us and we are his, we are his people and the sheep of his
pasture.**

**Come into his gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his holy name.**

**For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever,
his faithfulness throughout all generations.**

**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 13:1-9, 18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the

path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

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, 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

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

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 in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Let us pray that the word of God shall be fertile in the Church and in the world.

Father, give the Church grace to receive the word of faith in obedience and to bring forth good fruit for the salvation of many. Take away all that hinders her witness, so that all her people may share in her ministry and work for the harvest that is to come. Bless those who communicate the message of the Kingdom to others, that the good news of your unconditional love be shared throughout the world. Have mercy on us where we have scorched the message with confused and misleading thinking, or let weeds of close-mindedness choke Christ's teaching.

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

Come in mercy to all who are hungry for the word but are held back by the cares of living. We pray for those whose daily struggle to make ends meet leaves little space for the things of the spirit, and for those who, having been hurt by individual Church members, are closed to the witness of all people of faith. Rouse the indifferent and nurture those who are moving towards the Kingdom but have not yet come to full commitment. Bless the servants of your Kingdom who are bringing its healing power to the nations, whether in fields of science, religion, arts or education.

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

As we share our lives with others, help us to live as those who have heard and received the word of life, that we may be bearers of good news and doers of good work. Grant us grace and patience in our dealings with those closest to us, who often experience us at our worst. Help us so to live in all our affairs that our homes and communities may be as fields which the Lord has blessed.

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

We pray for all who are suffering from failed harvests and who struggle to cultivate infertile land. We remember indigenous peoples and subsistence cultures whose land is being encroached due to commercial interest by rich countries and companies, or depleted by deforestation or over-farming. We pray for people who once believed but have fallen away through trouble and persecution: bring them gently back to know the riches of your love.

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

We give thanks for the departed whose harvest has ripened and been gathered in where new life begins, especially those whose memory we particularly cherish. Give us grace to follow their example as we wait for our time of fruition.

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

We pray in the name of Christ who brings to us the good seed of the Kingdom.

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 across the economy. Guard them, 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. This we ask 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

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your 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 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.

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, the cathedral is **open for Private Prayer from 12 noon to 2pm on Sundays and Wednesdays for the month of July.**

(Social distancing and Covid-19 hygiene restrictions will apply)

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.

The morning service is also available on the Belfast Cathedral YouTube Channel Search for "Belfast Cathedral" on www.youtube.com

You can also listen to the morning service on our Telephone Audio facility.

Please dial: **028 95 320 355** and follow the instructions.

HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

ICH 385

Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking,
as the gospel words unfold;
we, in all our age-long seeking,
find no firmer truth to hold.

Word of goodness, truth and beauty,
heard by simple folk and wise,
word of freedom, word of duty,
word of life beyond our eyes.

Word of God's forgiveness granted
to the wild or guilty soul,
word of love that works undaunted,
changes, heals and makes us whole.

Speak to us, O Lord, believing,
as we hear, the sower sows;
may our hearts, your word receiving,
be the good ground where it grows.

Words: H.C.A. Gaunt (1902-83) based on Mark 4:1-20

Tune: SUSSEX English traditional melody arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

ICH 384

Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.

When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.

When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying!

O that we, discerning,
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee!

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-77)

Tune: RAVENSHAW Melody from M. Wwisse's Ein Neu Gesangbüchlen adpt. William Henry Monk (1823-89)

Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.

Material in this service is reproduced from the Book of Common Prayer copyright © RCB 2004.

Belfast Cathedral text, music and live streaming licence numbers CCL 8124, MRL 1049409

belfastcathedral.org