



BELFAST
CATHEDRAL

A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER FOR USE AT HOME

Sunday 19th July 2020

The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

HYMN: ICH 317

Father all-loving, you rule us in majesty,
judgment is yours and condemns all our pride,
stir up our rulers and peoples to penitence,
sorrow for sins that for vengeance have cried.

Blessèd Lord Jesus, you came here in poverty,
sharing a table with beasts at your birth;
stir us to work for your justice and charity,
truly to care for the poor of the earth.

Come, Holy Spirit, create us in holiness,
lift up our lives to your standard of right;
stir every will to new ventures of faithfulness,
flood the whole Church with your glorious light.

Holiest Trinity, perfect in unity,
bind in your love every nation and race:
may we adore you for time and eternity,
Father, Redeemer, and Spirit of grace.

Words: Patrick Appleford (b.1925)

Tune: MOREDUN Henry Smart (1813-79)

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: 99

The Lord is King, be the people never so impatient:
he sitteth between the cherubims, be the earth never so unquiet.

The Lord is great in Sion:
and high above all people.

They shall give thanks unto thy Name:
which is great, wonderful, and holy.

The king's power loveth judgement; thou hast prepared equity:
thou hast executed judgement and righteousness in Jacob.

O magnify the Lord our God:
and fall down before his footstool, for he is holy.

Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among such as call upon his Name:
these called upon the Lord, and he heard them.

He spake unto them out of the cloudy pillar:
for they kept his testimonies, and the law that he gave them.

Thou heardest them, O Lord our God:
thou forgavest them, O God, and punishedst their own inventions.

O magnify the Lord our God, and worship him upon his holy hill:
for the Lord our God is holy.

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 Kings 2:10-12; 3:16-28

David slept with his ancestors, and was buried in the city of David. The time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned for seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David; and his kingdom was firmly established.

Later, two women who were prostitutes came to Solomon and stood before him. One woman said, 'Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were together; there was no one else with us in the house, only the two of us were in the house. Then this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant slept. She laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, I saw that he was dead; but when I looked at him closely in the morning, clearly it was not the son I had borne.' But the other woman said, 'No, the living son is mine, and the dead son is yours.' The first said, 'No, the dead son is yours, and the living son is mine.' So they argued before the king.

Then the king said, 'One says, "This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead"; while the other says, "Not so! Your son is dead, and my son is the living one."' So the king said, 'Bring me a sword', and they brought a sword before the king. The king said, 'Divide the living boy in two; then give half to one, and half to the other.' But the woman whose son was alive said to the king—because compassion for her son burned within her—'Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!' The other said, 'It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it.' Then the king responded: 'Give the first woman the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother.' All Israel heard of the judgement that the king had rendered; and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute justice.

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: Acts 4:1-22

While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came to them, much annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming that in Jesus there is the resurrection of the dead. So they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. But many of those who heard the word believed; and they numbered about five thousand.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John and realized that they were uneducated and ordinary men, they were amazed and recognized them as companions of Jesus. When they saw the man who had been cured standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition. So they ordered them to leave the council while they discussed the matter with one another. They said, 'What will we do with them? For it is obvious to all who live in Jerusalem that a notable sign has been done through them; we cannot deny it. But to keep it from spreading further among the people, let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name.' So they called them and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, 'Whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge; for we cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard.' After threatening them again, they let them go, finding no way to punish them because of the people, for all of them praised God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing had been performed was more than forty years old.

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, who hast prepared for them that love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

Seeking God's presence

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom. All our desire is known to you, therefore perfect what you have begun, and what your Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek your face, turn your face unto us and show us your glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect. *Augustine*

Neighbours and friends

Lord, we pray for our neighbours and friends, that they may lead happy and useful lives. We pray especially for any with whom we have quarrelled, that we may have the chance to be reconciled. We pray for any who are living in new surroundings and lack friends, and for those who have lost friends by the way they live. We pray for those who befriend the friendless. God our Father, make us true and loyal friends and neighbours, that through them we may be led nearer you. *Adapted from Caryl Micklem*

Dedication to God's will

Lord Jesus,
I give you my hands to do your work.
I give you my feet to go your way.
I give you my eyes to see as you see.
I give you my tongue to speak your words.
I give you my mind that you may think in me.
I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.
Above all, I give you my heart that you may grow in me,
so that it is you, Lord Jesus, who live and work and pray in me.
I hand over to your care, Lord,
my soul and body,
my prayers and my hopes,
my health and my work,
my life and my death,
my parents and my family,
my friends and my neighbours,
my country and all people.
Today and always. *Adapted from Lancelot Andrewes*

Those who are lonely

Father, we pray for all the lonely people, especially those who, coming home to an empty house, stand at the door hesitant and afraid to enter. May all who stand in any doorway with fear in their hearts, like the two on the Emmaus Road, ask the Living One in. Then, by his grace, may they find that in loneliness they are never alone, and that he peoples empty rooms with his presence. *E.M. Farr*

For humility

O Father, give us the humility which
realizes its ignorance,
admits its mistakes,
recognizes its need,
welcomes advice,
accepts rebuke.
Help us always
to praise rather than to criticize,
to sympathize rather than to condemn,
to encourage rather than to discourage,
to build rather than to destroy,
and to think of people at their best rather than at their worst.
This we ask for your name's sake. *William Barclay*

For the grace of humour

Give us a sense of humour, Lord, and also things to laugh about; give us the grace to take a joke against ourselves, and to see the funny side of the things we do; save us from annoyance, bad temper and resentment against our friends and loved ones. Help us to laugh even in the face of trouble, and fill our minds with the love of Jesus; for his name's sake. *Michael Hollings and Etta Gullick*

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 94

In the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.

Name him, Christians, name him,
with love as strong as death,
but with awe and wonder,
and with bated breath;
he is God the Saviour,
he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped,
trusted and adored.

In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true;
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour,
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.

With his Father's glory
Jesus comes again,
angel hosts attend him
and announce his reign;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

*Words: Caroline M. Noel (1817-77) altd.
Tune: CAMBERWELL Michael Brierley (b.1932)*

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, 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

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

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