



A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
Sunday 26th July 2020
The Seventh 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.

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; 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: 105:1-11

O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; ♦
make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises, ♦
and tell of all his marvellous works.

Rejoice in the praise of his holy name; ♦
let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord and his strength; ♦
seek his face continually.

Remember the marvels he has done, ♦
his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

O seed of Abraham his servant, ♦

O children of Jacob his chosen.

He is the Lord our God; ♦

his judgements are in all the earth.

He has always been mindful of his covenant, ♦

the promise that he made for a thousand generations:

The covenant he made with Abraham, ♦

the oath that he swore to Isaac,

Which he established as a statute for Jacob, ♦

an everlasting covenant for Israel,

Saying, 'To you will I give the land of Canaan ♦

to be the portion of your inheritance.'

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 29:15-28

Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.' So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' Laban said, 'This is not done in our country—giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me for another seven years.' Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

CANTICLE: Te Deum, Part I

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as the 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.

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 13:31-33, 44-52

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.'

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

'Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

For the growth and purity of the Kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

Guide your Church to cherish and cultivate the precious seed of the Kingdom, that all your people may be gathered into one in holiness. Teach us to recognise the old and the new treasures that have been revealed and entrusted to us, to maintain past integrity and explore new opportunities.

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

May all that tends to goodness and love in the world be recognised and developed. Give to the rulers of the nations and to all in authority the understanding that there is a greater kingdom than their own, and a richer treasure than their wealth, so that life for all shall be more abundant.

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

Help us to value more fully the gifts that we have received and to help our families, our friends and neighbours, towards the Kingdom. Make us wise in our households, to be faithful to the past and open to the future.

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

Have mercy on those suffering from despair and depression. Set free all whose lives are constrained by the errors of the past and those who are afraid of what is new.

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

Receive into life the souls who have been brought to the eternal shore in the net of salvation and made members of the eternal Kingdom towards which they strove on earth. May they find rest, and treasure greater than they have known.

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

We offer our prayers in the name of Christ, through whom we are members 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 those 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 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.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

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.

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

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HYMNS APPROPRIATE TO THE DAY:

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O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
lowly we kneel in prayer before your throne,
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
who now for evermore are joined in one.

O perfect Life, be now their full assurance
of tender charity and steadfast faith,
of patient hope, and quiet brave endurance,
with childlike trust that fears not pain or death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife;
and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
that dawns upon eternal love and life.

Words: Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932)
Tune: O PERFECT LOVE Joseph Barnby (1838-96)

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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. Weisse's Ein Neu Gesangbüchlen adpt. William Henry Monk (1823-89)