



**Morning Prayer**  
**Wednesday November 4, 2020**  
**Prayers for our Nation**

*What does the LORD require of you but to do justice,  
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your  
God?* [Micah 6:8]

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows  
me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* [John 8:12]

**The Confession**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Renew in us this day the image of your love; renew in us in the likeness of your mercy, O God. May any refusal to forgive that lingers with us, any bitterness of soul that hardens our hearts, be softened by your graces. Renew us in the image of your love, O God, renew us in the likeness of your mercy. **Amen.**

**Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

In the morning light, O God, may I glimpse again your image deep with me, the threads of eternal glory woven into the fabric of every man and woman. May I catch sight of the mystery of the human soul fashioned in your likeness deeper than knowing, more enduring than time. And in glimpsing these threads of light amidst the weakness and distortion of my life, let me be recalled to the strength and beauty deep in my soul. Let me be recalled to the strength and beauty of your image in every living soul. **Amen.**

**Psalm 47**

89 O Lord, your word is everlasting; \* it stands firm in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness remains from one generation to another; \*  
you established the earth, and it abides.

91 By your decree these continue to this day, \* for all things are your servants.  
92 If my delight had not been in your law, \* I should have perished in my affliction.  
93 I will never forget your commandments, \* because by them you give me life.  
94 I am yours; oh, that you would save me! \* for I study your commandments.  
95 Though the wicked lie in wait for me to destroy me, \* I will apply my mind to your decrees.  
96 I see that all things come to an end, \* but your commandment has no bounds.

## **The Lessons**

### **A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah [26:1-8]**

On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: We have a strong city; he sets up victory like walls and bulwarks.

<sup>2</sup> Open the gates, so that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

<sup>3</sup> Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—in peace because they trust in you.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord God you have an everlasting rock.

<sup>5</sup> For he has brought low the inhabitants of the height; the lofty city he lays low. He lays it low to the ground, casts it to the dust.

<sup>6</sup> The foot tramples it, the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy.

<sup>7</sup> The way of the righteous is level; O Just One, you make smooth the path of the righteous.

<sup>8</sup> In the path of your judgements, O Lord, we wait for you; your name and your renown are the soul's desire.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Third Song of Isaiah [Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19]**

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \* and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you

For behold, darkness covers the land; \* deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.

But over you the Lord will rise, \* and his glory will appear upon you.

Nations will stream to your light, \* and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Your gates will always be open; \* by day or night they will never be shut. They will call you, The City of the Lord, \* The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

Violence will no more be heard in your land, \* ruin or destruction within your borders.

You will call your walls, Salvation, \* and all your portals, Praise.

The sun will no more be your light by day; \*

by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

The Lord will be your everlasting light, \* and your God will be your glory.

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

## **The Second Lesson: The Gospel of Mark [12:13-17]**

13 Then they sent to him some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. 14 And they came and said to him, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? 15 Should we pay them, or should we not?' But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, 'Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.' 16 And they brought one. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' 17 Jesus said to them, 'Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they were utterly amazed at him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

## **Canticle: A Song of God's Love [1 John 4:7-11]**

Beloved, let us love one another, \* for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, \* for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, \* that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through Jesus Christ. 38 In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us \* and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, \* we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, \* and God's love will be perfected in us.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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**

Hear our cry, O God. **And listen to our prayer.**

Let us pray. God be with you. **And also with you.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **A Litany for the Healing of our Country**

*from God's Good Earth*

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them. **Heal us.**

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them. **Forgive us.**

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, even though we often fall short of them. **Inspire us.**

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light. **Enlighten us.**

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again. **Renew us.**

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices join in one united chorus. **Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

### **Collect of the Day**

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Joy in God's Creation**

O heavenly Father, you have filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer after the Election**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common

good: for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### **A Prayer in Time of Transition**

God of growth and discovery, yours is the inspiration that has changed our lives. Yours is the power that has brought us to take new risks and face new opportunities. You shape our dreams. May your Spirit guide us in our preparations to search for a new Rector: open our eyes to what is possible and what is unfinished; open our ears to words of wisdom that assure us and challenge us; open our hearts to possibilities we have not yet imagined and to what we have neglected, that we may be both bold and humble; through Jesus Christ, our Light, our Center, our Hope. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Facing the Coronavirus**

Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of over 230,000 loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for an End to Racism**

Lord, Jesus Christ who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community and to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Social Justice**

We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;

for we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;

for You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;

for You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;

for You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope,  
if we would only use our power justly.

We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;

for You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing,  
if we would only use them constructively.

Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power,  
to do instead of just pray, to become instead of merely to wish. **Amen**

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May God shield your body, mind, soul and home; may the righteousness of God guide your footsteps and the wisdom of God guide your choices; may the mercy of God give you a heart of compassion; and may God's blessing, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be on you and those you love, now and always. **Amen.**