



Morning Prayer
Wednesday September 23, 2020
Saint Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist [transferred]

The Invitatory and Psalter

"Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." [Luke 18:13]

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.**

Psalms 119:33-40

- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees * and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *in your righteousness preserve my life.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Proverbs [3:1-6]

3 My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments;

² for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you.

³ Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you; bind them round your neck,
write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ So you will find favor and good repute in the sight of God and of people.

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.

⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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

A Song of Hosea [6:1-3]

Come, let us return to our God, * who has torn us and will heal us.

God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, * after two days revive us,

On the third day restore us, * that in God's presence we may live.

Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the Lord, *

whose justice dawns like morning light, its dawning as sure as the sunrise.

God's justice will come to us like a shower, * like spring rains that water the earth. **Amen.**

The Second Lesson: The Gospel of Matthew [9:9-13]

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, 'Follow me.' And he got up and followed him. 10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax-collectors and sinners came and were sitting with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with tax-collectors and sinners?' ¹²But when he heard this, he said, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.'

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 in one united chorus. **Amen.**

The Prayers

Collect of the Day

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 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 Wisdom

by Marian Wright Edelman

O God, who can turn our worries into wings of joys and our sorrows into songs of thanks, let not our hearts be so troubled by the tragedies of this life's moment that we lose sight of the eternal life in your kingdom...Strengthen our resolve to replace hatred with love, tension with trust, and selfishness with caring and community. Heal, O God, all our children so that those who hate and those who are hated, those who hurt and those who are hurt, may grow up in a world of peace, opportunity, and justice. **Amen**

A Prayer for those who have died from Coronavirus

Lord, your ways are mysterious, and your purposes unknowable. But that of which we can be sure is that when we feel sorrow, you feel sorrow, too. That when we suffer, you also suffer. That when we mourn, you mourn, as well. That when our hearts are broken, so is yours. Lord, we feel that sorrow now, that suffering now, that mourning now, and our hearts are breaking

now that in this nation more than 200,000 of our sisters and brothers have already been taken from us by this disease. Yet, we know that your Son who suffered death itself for us, is by our side, and shares our burden. So, Lord, comfort those who have lost, protect those who remain, and take those you have gathered into that greater light where pain, and suffering, and death itself exist no more. **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.**

Be O Lord, a guiding star above us, a smooth path below us, a kindly shepherd behind us and a bright flame before us; today, tonight and forever. **Amen.**