



## Morning Prayer

Wednesday September 30, 2020

Saint Michael & All Angels [transferred]

Prayers for police officers, firefighters, paramedics and  
the military.

### The Invitatory and Psalter

*'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and  
the angels of God ascending and descending upon the  
Son of Man.'* - John 1:51

### 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 103

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \*and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, \* and forget not all his benefits.

3 He forgives all your sins \* and heals all your infirmities;

4 He redeems your life from the grave \* and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

5 He satisfies you with good things, \*and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
 6 The Lord executes righteousness \*and judgment for all who are oppressed.  
 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*and his works to the children of Israel.  
 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*slow to anger and of great kindness.  
 9 He will not always accuse us, \*nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
     nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
     so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*so far has he removed our sins from us.  
 13 As a father cares for his children, \*so does the Lord care for those who fear him.  
 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*he remembers that we are but dust.  
 15 Our days are like the grass; \*we flourish like a flower of the field;  
 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*and its place shall know it no more.  
 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, \*  
     and his righteousness on children's children;  
 18 On those who keep his covenant \*and remember his commandments and do them.  
 19 The Lord has set his throne in heaven, \*and his kingship has dominion over all.  
 20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
     and hearken to the voice of his word.  
 21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, \* you ministers of his who do his will.  
 22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; \*  
     bless the Lord, O my soul..

## The Lessons

### A Reading from the Book of Genesis [28:10-17]

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. <sup>11</sup>He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup>And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup>And the Lord stood beside him\* and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; <sup>14</sup>and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed\* in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup>Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' <sup>16</sup>Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely

the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!’ <sup>17</sup>And he was afraid, and said, ‘How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’

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 John [1:47-51]**

<sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, ‘Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!’ <sup>48</sup>Nathanael asked him, ‘Where did you come to know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ <sup>49</sup>Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ <sup>50</sup>Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ <sup>51</sup>And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, \* you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

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. <sup>38</sup>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

Everlasting God, who has ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the ministries of angels and mortals: Mercifully grant that, as your holy angels always serve and worship you in heaven, so by your appointment they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer for Police Officers**

Almighty God, you are the wellspring of eternal life. As our police officers protect and serve our community we pray for them today. Keep them safe in times of trouble. Give them strength in times of weariness. Give them joy in times of sorrow. Give them hope in times of despair. May they know their identity as created in your image and give them encouragement as they serve day after day. Lift them up with all your people in wisdom, righteousness and hope; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving for First Responders**

Holy God of Blessing, we pray the citizens of our world will see the value and character of all first responders. Allow us all to see all the sacrifices they make to keep the rest of us safe and healthy. Enable us to show gratitude and care for all who put their lives second to ours and remind us daily to pray for them. May all first responders feel cared for, respected, and supported by their communities. I ask these things in Jesus' name. **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 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.**

### **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 be on you and your home, now and always. **Amen.**