



Morning Prayer
Wednesday September 9, 2020
The Feast of Alexander Crummell
[transferred]

The Invitatory and Psalter

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, /and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; /I shall keep it with all my heart.

[Psalm 119:33-34]

The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Holy and Loving God, Creator and Sustainer of seas, lands, and skies: Your loving hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature, yet we have turned against you and against your creation. We have failed to love your creation and all your creatures. We confess that we have polluted your waters and lands and soiled your heavens; we have ignored the weak and vulnerable and those who seek justice. Our thoughtlessness, passivity, and greed have damaged all creation. We repent of our sins against you and your creation, and remembering the account that we must one day give, we vow to work to restore all that is broken, polluted, and harmed with the help of Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God, for ever and ever. **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 Versicle & Doxology

O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise. **And your glory all the day long.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Venite [Psalm 95:1-7]

Come, let us sing to the Lord; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving * and raise a loud shout to him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, * and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, * and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 19:7-11

7 The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.
10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
11 By them also is your servant enlightened, *and in keeping them there is great reward.

The Lessons

The First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) [2:7–11,17–18]

You who fear the Lord, wait for his mercy; do not stray, or else you may fall.
You who fear the Lord, trust in him, and your reward will not be lost.
You who fear the Lord, hope for good things, for lasting joy and mercy.
Consider the generations of old and see: has anyone trusted in the Lord and been disappointed? Or has anyone persevered in the fear of the Lord and been forsaken?
Or has anyone called upon him and been neglected?
For the Lord is compassionate and merciful; he forgives sins and saves in time of distress.
Those who fear the Lord prepare their hearts, and humble themselves before him.
Let us fall into the hands of the Lord, but not into the hands of mortals;
for equal to his majesty is his mercy, and equal to his name are his works.
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 Mark [4:1-10, 13-20]

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.

And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

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

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander Crummell, whom you called to preach the gospel to those who were far off and to those who were near. Raise up in this and every land, evangelists and heralds of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior Jesus Christ, 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 190,000 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.**