

Morning Prayer

Sunday 4 September 2022 * Proper 18 * Year C

God is Spirit and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth.

(John 4:24)

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Together:

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ that we might abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Officiant:

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in Eternal Life.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People: And your glory all the day long.

Officiant and People:

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

Venite (*Psalms 95:1-7*)

Antiphon: Christ has triumphed over death: O come let us worship.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving *

and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you are a great God; *
 you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth,*
 and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *
 and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
 and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For you are our God, *
 and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.
(together) Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!
Antiphon: Christ has triumphed over death: O come let us worship.

The Psalm

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

Domine, probasti

- 1 LORD, you have searched me out and known me; *
 you know my sitting down and my rising up;
 you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
 and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
 but you, O LORD, know it altogether.
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
 and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
 you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
 your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, *
 while I was being made in secret
 and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
 all of them were written in your book; *
 they were fashioned day by day,
 when as yet there was none of them.

16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!

17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Officiant and People:

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

The Lessons

A Reading from Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the LORD came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Canticle H * A Song of Hosea (*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.

A Reading from Philemon 1-21:

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love-- and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother-- especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I,



Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Canticle K * A Song of Our Adoption (*Ephesians 1:3-10*)

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *
for you have blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ,*
that we should be holy and blameless before you.
You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ,*
according to the good pleasure of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace, *
that you have freely given us in the Beloved.
In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,
the forgiveness of our sins,
According to the riches of your grace*
which you have lavished upon us.
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight, *
the mystery of your will,
According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ, *
things in heaven and things on earth.

A Reading from Luke 14:25-33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus; and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a

delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

Reflections on the Readings

The Creed (*Philippians 2*)

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Prayers

Officiant: God be with you

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant and People

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread that we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

- V. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

Collects

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessions from the bidding book and those present.

All compassionate God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our friend and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Concluding Sentence

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. ***Amen.*** (Ephesians 3:20,21)

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

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!***