Morning Prayer

Friday after the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

Invitatory and Psalter **BCP p. 80**

*Officiant*Lord, open our lips.
People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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.
Alleluia.

Venite ***Psalm 95:1-7***

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

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!
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

Psalm 102 **BCP p. 731**

LORD, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; *
  hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.
Incline your ear to me; *
  when I call, make haste to answer me,
For my days drift away like smoke, *
  and my bones are hot as burning coals.
My heart is smitten like grass and withered, *
  so that I forget to eat my bread.

Because of the voice of my groaning *
I am but skin and bones.
I have become like a vulture in the wilderness, *
like an owl among the ruins.
I lie awake and groan; *
I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.
My enemies revile me all day long, *
and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.
For I have eaten ashes for bread *
and mingled my drink with weeping.
Because of your indignation and wrath *
you have lifted me up and thrown me away.
My days pass away like a shadow, *
and I wither like the grass.
But you, O LORD, endure for ever, *
and your Name from age to age.
You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to have mercy upon her; *
indeed, the appointed time has come.
For your servants love her very rubble, *
and are moved to pity even for her dust.
The nations shall fear your Name, O LORD, *
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
For the LORD will build up Zion, *
and his glory will appear.
He will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless; *
he will not despise their plea.
Let this be written for a future generation, *
so that a people yet unborn may praise the LORD.
For the LORD looked down from his holy place on high; *
from the heavens he beheld the earth;
That he might hear the groan of the captive *
and set free those condemned to die;
That they may declare in Zion the Name of the LORD, *
and his praise in Jerusalem;
When the peoples are gathered together, *
and the kingdoms also, to serve the LORD.
He has brought down my strength before my time; *
he has shortened the number of my days;
And I said, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; *
your years endure throughout all generations.
In the beginning, O LORD, you laid the foundations of the earth, *
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
They shall perish, but you will endure; they all shall wear out like a garment; *
as clothing you will change them, and they shall be changed;
But you are always the same, *
and your years will never end.
The children of your servants shall continue, *
and their offspring shall stand fast in your sight."
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 Lessons

The First Lesson Mal. 3:1-12

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

Ever since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts. But you say, "How shall we return?" Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, "How are we robbing you?" In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me—the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the LORD of hosts. Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

10. The Second Song of Isaiah ***Isaiah 55:6-11***

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
  call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
  and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
  and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
  nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
  so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
  and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
   seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
   it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
   and prosper in that for which I sent it.
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 Luke 18:1-8

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

18. A Song to the Lamb ***Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13***

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
   are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
   and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
   for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
   a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
   and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
   for ever and for evermore.

The Apostles' Creed **BCP p. 96**

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 **BCP p. 97**

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Suffrages A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. **And grant us your salvation.**
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Fridays

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The General Thanksgiving **BCP p. 101**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Romans 15:13