

## Morning Prayer

### Saturday after the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him.

*John 4:23*

#### 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***

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!  
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.

#### Psalm 30

**BCP p. 621**

I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up \*  
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.  
O LORD my God, I cried out to you, \*  
and you restored me to health.  
You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; \*  
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.  
Sing to the LORD, you servants of his; \*  
give thanks for the remembrance of his holiness.

For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, \*  
his favor for a lifetime.  
Weeping may spend the night, \*  
but joy comes in the morning.  
While I felt secure, I said, "I shall never be disturbed. \*  
You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."  
Then you hid your face, \*  
and I was filled with fear.  
I cried to you, O LORD; \*  
I pleaded with the Lord, saying,  
"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? \*  
will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?  
Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; \*  
O LORD, be my helper."  
You have turned my wailing into dancing; \*  
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.  
Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; \*  
O LORD my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

### **Psalm 32**

**BCP p. 624**

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, \*  
and whose sin is put away!  
Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, \*  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!  
While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, \*  
because of my groaning all day long.  
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; \*  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.  
Then I acknowledged my sin to you, \*  
and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." \*  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.  
Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; \*  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.  
You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; \*  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.  
"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; \*  
I will guide you with my eye.  
Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; \*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."  
Great are the tribulations of the wicked; \*  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.  
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; \*  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.  
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 Ezra 4:7,11-24**

A Reading from the Book of Ezra.

And in the days of Artaxerxes, Bishlam and Mithredath and Tabeel and the rest of their associates wrote to King Artaxerxes of Persia; the letter was written in Aramaic and translated. this is a copy of the letter that they sent): “To King Artaxerxes: Your servants, the people of the province Beyond the River, send greeting. And now may it be known to the king that the Jews who came up from you to us have gone to Jerusalem. They are rebuilding that rebellious and wicked city; they are finishing the walls and repairing the foundations. Now may it be known to the king that, if this city is rebuilt and the walls finished, they will not pay tribute, custom, or toll, and the royal revenue will be reduced. Now because we share the salt of the palace and it is not fitting for us to witness the king’s dishonor, therefore we send and inform the king, so that a search may be made in the annals of your ancestors. You will discover in the annals that this is a rebellious city, hurtful to kings and provinces, and that sedition was stirred up in it from long ago. On that account this city was laid waste. We make known to the king that, if this city is rebuilt and its walls finished, you will then have no possession in the province Beyond the River.”

The king sent an answer: “To Rehum the royal deputy and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their associates who live in Samaria and in the rest of the province Beyond the River, greeting. And now the letter that you sent to us has been read in translation before me. So I made a decree, and someone searched and discovered that this city has risen against kings from long ago, and that rebellion and sedition have been made in it. Jerusalem has had mighty kings who ruled over the whole province Beyond the River, to whom tribute, custom, and toll were paid. Therefore issue an order that these people be made to cease, and that this city not be rebuilt, until I make a decree. Moreover, take care not to be slack in this matter; why should damage grow to the hurt of the king?” Then when the copy of King Artaxerxes’ letter was read before Rehum and the scribe Shimshai and their associates, they hurried to the Jews in Jerusalem and by force and power made them cease. At that time the work on the house of God in Jerusalem stopped and was discontinued until the second year of the reign of King Darius of Persia.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **12. A Song of Creation      *Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65***

*Invocation*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

*I The Cosmic Order*

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
all winds and fire and heat.  
Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
drops of dew and flakes of snow  
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
O shining light and enfolding dark.  
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *II The Earth and its Creatures*

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.  
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *III The People of God*

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *Doxology*

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## The Second Lesson Philemon 1-25

A Reading from the Letter to Philemon.

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. One thing more—prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### 19. The Song of the Redeemed      *Revelation 15:3-4*

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done, \*  
surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \*

O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name? \*  
for you only are the Holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \*

because your just and holy works have been revealed.

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 Apostles' Creed

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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

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*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages B

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**  
V. Day by day we bless you;  
R. **We praise your name for ever.**  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. **For we put our trust in you.**  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Saturdays**

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

### **The General Thanksgiving**

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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.**

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.**

*2 Corinthians 13:14*