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Monday, August 17, 2020

+ **OPENING CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER**

O God, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
we praise your name, O God.

[ADAPTED FROM PSALM 51:15 AND 113:3]

+ **REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

(Water may be touched, poured or sprinkled.)

By Word and water God renews us this day
in the living fountain of God's grace,
and raises us with Christ Jesus to live a new life in the Spirit.
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. [PSALM 90:14]

+ **MORNING HYMN OR CANTICLE**

Come, let us sing to the Ho-ly One; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-vation.
Let us come before God's presence with thanks-giving, *
and raise a loud shout with *psalms*.
For you, O God, are a great God, *
you are great a-bove 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 God, our Maker.

For you are our God,
and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your *voice*!

[PSALM 95:1-7 (OSH PSALTER)]

+ **MORNING PRAYER**

The Holy One* be with you;
And also with you.

Let us pray:
New every morning is your love, great God of light,
and all day long you are working for good in the world.
Stir up in us desire to serve you, to live peacefully with
our neighbors, and to devote each day to your Son, our
Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

[PRESBYTERIAN WORSHIPBOOK, USA., 20TH C. USED BY PERMISSION.]

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+ Psalm 87

Antiphon:

***Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of God.***

On the holy mount stands the city he founded;

² the LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

³ Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of God. *Selah*

⁴ Among those who know me I mention Rahab and
Babylon;

Philistia too, and Tyre, with Ethiopia —
“This one was born there,” they say.

⁵ And of Zion it shall be said,
“This one and that one were born in it”;
for the Most High himself will establish it.

⁶ The LORD records, as he registers the peoples,
“This one was born there.” *Selah*

⁷ Singers and dancers alike say,
“All my springs are in you.”

Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

Antiphon:

***Glorious things are spoken of you,
O city of God.***

Silence

+ WORD: Acts 15:1-11 NRSV

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”

² And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders.

³ So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers.

⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them.

⁵ But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, “It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.”

⁶ The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter.

⁷ After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be

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the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers.

⁸ And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; ⁹ and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us.

¹⁰ Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?

¹¹ On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God!

+ SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

+ **CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH**

We bless you, Adonai, God of *Israel*,
for you come to visit us and ransom us from *bondage*.
You have brought forth a strong De-liverer
in the house of your child *David*.

**This is what your holy prophets an-nounced:
deliverance from enemies and from the hand of all who hate
us;
mercy a-mong our *ancestors*,
and remembrance of your ho-ly *covenant*.**

This is the promise you swore to our an-cestor, *Abraham*,
to make us un-a-fraid,
to rescue us from our *enemies*,
to serve before you, holy and just,
all the days of our *lives*.

**And this, my little child,
shall be called prophet of the Most *High*,
going before you, Adonai, to pre-pare your *paths*,
making your people know de-liverance
by the forgiveness of their *sins*.**

Through your merciful compassions, God our *God*,
the dawn from on high shall *visit us*,
to shine on those kept in dungeons and the shadows of *death*
and to guide our feet onto the path of *peace*. [LUKE 1:68-79]
Glory to you, O Trinity, most holy and *blessed*,
one God, now and for-ever, *A-men*.

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+ **A READING FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION:**

“If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

Mother Teresa

Silent reflection

+ **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,

and also with you.

Let us pray:

PRAYERS FOR STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. ***Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

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+ PRAYER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State of New Jersey, especially in Atlantic and Cape May counties, in the townships and cities where we live, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ PRAYERS FOR Prisons and Correctional Institutions

Lord Jesus, for our sake you were condemned as a criminal: Visit our jails and prisons with your pity and judgment. Remember all prisoners, and bring the guilty to repentance and amendment of life according to your will, and give them hope for their future. When any are held unjustly, bring them release; forgive us, and teach us to improve our justice. Remember those who work in these institutions; keep them humane and compassionate; and save them from becoming brutal or callous. And since what we do for those in prison, O Lord, we do for you, constrain us to improve their lot. All this we ask for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ **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 forever. **Amen.**

+ CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father,
You have brought us in safety to this new day:
preserve us with your mighty power,
that we may not fall into sin,
nor be overcome by adversity;
and in all we do direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

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+ BLESSING

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may abound in hope. ***Amen.***

Romans 15:13