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Friday, September 18, 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:

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Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts, which no unworthy thought can drag downward, unconquered hearts, which no tribulation can wear out, upright hearts, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(SAINT THOMAS, ITALY, 13TH CENT., ALT.)

**+ Psalm 145:1-8** CEV

Antiphon:

***The Lord is great and so worthy of praise!  
God's greatness can't be grasped.***

I will lift you up high, my God, the true king.

I will bless your name forever and always.

<sup>2</sup> I will bless you every day.

I will praise your name forever and always.

<sup>3</sup> The LORD is great and so worthy of praise!

God's greatness can't be grasped.

<sup>4</sup> One generation will praise your works to the next one, proclaiming your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> They will talk all about the glorious splendor of your majesty;

I will contemplate your wondrous works.

<sup>6</sup> They will speak of the power of your awesome deeds;

I will declare your great accomplishments.

<sup>7</sup> They will rave in celebration of your abundant goodness;

they will shout joyfully about your righteousness:

<sup>8</sup> "The LORD is merciful and compassionate, very patient, and full of faithful love.

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

***The Lord is great and so worthy of praise!***

***God's greatness can't be grasped.***

Silence

**+ WORD:** 2 Corinthians 13:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Don't you understand that Jesus Christ is in you? Unless, of course, you fail the test. <sup>6</sup> But I hope that you will realize that we don't fail the test. <sup>7</sup> We pray to God that you don't do anything wrong, not because we

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want to appear to pass the test but so that you might do the right thing, even if we appear to fail.

<sup>8</sup> We can't do anything against the truth but only to help the truth. <sup>9</sup> We are happy when we are weak but you are strong. We pray for this: that you will be made complete.

<sup>10</sup> This is why I'm writing these things while I'm away. I'm writing so that I won't need to act harshly when I'm with you by using the authority that the Lord gave me. He gave it to me so that I could build you up, not tear you down.

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; TBE, ALT., OSL]

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

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+ **COMMEMORATION:** Dag Hammarskjöld

**“Never measure the height of a mountain until you reach the top. Then you will see how low it was.”**

**Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl Hammarskjöld was Secretary-General of the United Nations from 10 April 1953 until 18 September 1961 when he died in a plane crash while on a peace mission in the Congo.**

*For more information [Link #1](#) and [Link #2](#)*

Silent reflection

+ COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Dag Hammarskjöld, whom you called to be a peacemaker to the nations; So mightily fill us with 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 for ever.  
Amen.

+ **PRAYERS**

The Holy One be with you,

***and also with you.***

Let us pray:

+ SILENT PRAYER

Requests known to you

+ FOR A SICK PERSON

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need: We humbly beseech you to behold, visit, and relieve your sick servants for whom our prayers are desired. Look upon them with the eyes of your mercy; comfort them with a sense of your goodness; preserve them from the temptations of the enemy; and give them patience under their affliction. In your good time, restore them to health, and enable them to lead the residue of their lives in your awe, and to your glory; and grant that finally they may dwell with you in life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ COLLECT OF THE WEEK

***O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ 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 THE GREATER NJ CONFERENCE

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Conference to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless Bishop Schol, our District Superintendents, other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER] *adapted*

+ PRAYERS FOR THE OPPRESSED

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ COLLECT OF THE HOLY CROSS *for Fridays*

***Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

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+ **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]

+ **BLESSING**

May God grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, <sup>17</sup> and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17