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Saturday, September 5, 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 119:33-40

Antiphon:

***Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.***

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.

³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.

³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.

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

***Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.***

Silence

+ **WORD:** Matthew 23:29-36

29 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, 30 and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ 31 Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. 32 Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors. 33 You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape being sentenced to hell? 34 Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, 35 so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. 36 Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

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*,

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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*.

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

“When you recognize the festive and the still moments
as moments of prayer, then you gradually
realize that to pray is to live..”

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Silent reflection

+ **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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all
good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name;
increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness;
and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through
Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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*

+ PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

[BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER]

+ COLLECT FOR SATURDAYS

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world did rest from all your works and sanctify 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.*

[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.***

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+ 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, ¹⁷ and that
Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are
being rooted and grounded in love.

Ephesians 3:16-17