

Evening Prayer
With devotionals
For Sunday, March 29
for use at home during this time of pestilence

When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your
Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

~Matthew 6:6

Beloved members of All Saints and whoever else may find this,

We find ourselves in the throes of a global pandemic. Much grace and goodness is coming through, but also much fear. Someone challenged me – in this time – that I and all other faithful Christians draw into our prayer closets, our private places of prayer. This urged me to encourage those Christians I am called to teach and shepherd to join in praying daily the offices of Morning and Evening Prayer.

I will post daily downloads with both Morning and Evening Prayer, as well as a short daily devotional and activity to stretch you. It is my prayer that despite being apart from each other, we will all grow in Christ in the strange frightful season.

Let us ever be mindful that the God we serve is still on His Holy Throne, is always good, is still faithful, still loves us, still calls us to come before him on our knees, crying out to him day and night. May you be encouraged and never grow weary in the race you are running.

If you find this helpful – please use it and share it freely.

In the love and faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Fr. Ian Emile Dunn

Daily Devotion and Activity
Evening Prayer

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Devotional:

What does our heart long for? The reformer John Calvin famously said that our hearts are idol factories. In other words, our hearts are continually longing for things that are often quite destructive for us. Too often, these desires lead us away from God, but the lessons today point us back to having a heart that longs for God.

Psalm 42 starts with that beautiful statement and sentiment “Like as a hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.” Then the psalmist turns towards a need for repentance and an asking for God to heal us from our sins. Hosea reiterates that call to repentance and the need for a burning desire to know God. Finally, the author of Hebrews delivers us to the good news: “therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”

Here is the good news, though we have sinned, and though our hearts churn out idols of all kinds, shapes, and sizes, Christ is the suitable sacrifice for us and has made us new. Now, we have the ability in the blood of Christ to enter into the Holy places and to be in good and perfect communion with God. Though now we see dimly, soon, we will see Him fully.

Daily Activity:

Prayerfully consider what idols have you have created in your heart. Does anything come to mind that you are putting your hope in, other than God?

Take some time to prayerfully ask God to continue to kindle in you a deep desire to know him, forsaking all your idols.

Take time to give thanks that we have a great high priest in Christ who was a sacrifice for us, that we can know God, and that there is nothing that can separate us from His love.

The Order for Evening Prayer Sunday, March 29

Lessons

Psalm 42 and 43

Hosea 6:1-6

Hebrews 10:1-25

Read the sentences for the day,

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us. *Dan. ix. 9, 10.*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 St. John i. 8, 9.*

followed by:

LET us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A General Confession, to be said by all present:

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind In Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Then the leader shall pray the Collect for Trinity XXI:

GRANT, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Then all together pray:

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.

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Service from the 1928 American Book of Common Prayer

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Then likewise the leader shall say,

O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

The leader shall say,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Leader. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

Then shall follow a Portion of the Psalms, followed by the Gloria Patri:

Psalm 42

LIKE as the hart desireth the water-brooks, * so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God: * when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my meat day and night, * while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God?

Now when I think thereupon, I pour out my heart by myself; * for I went with the multitude, and brought them forth into the house of God;

In the voice of praise and thanksgiving, * among such as keep holy-day.

Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul? * and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God; * for I will yet thank him, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

My soul is vexed within me; * therefore will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, from Hermon and the little hill.

One deep calleth another, because of the noise of thy water-floods; * all thy waves and storms are gone over me.

The LORD will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime; * and in the night season will I sing of him, and make my prayer unto the God of my life.

I will say unto the God of my strength, Why hast thou forgotten me? * why go I thus heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?

My bones are smitten asunder as with a sword, * while mine enemies that trouble me cast me in the teeth;

Namely, while they say daily unto me, * Where is now thy God?

Why art thou so vexed, O my soul? * and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God; * for I will yet thank him, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43

GIVE sentence with me, O God, and defend my cause against the ungodly people; * O deliver me from the deceitful and wicked man.

For thou art the God of my strength; why hast thou put me from thee? * and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresseth me?

O send out thy light and thy truth, that they may lead me, * and bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling;

And that I may go unto the altar of God, even unto the God of my joy and gladness; * and upon the harp will I give thanks unto thee, O God, my God.

Why art thou so heavy, O my soul? * and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God; * for I will yet give him thanks, which is the help of my countenance, and my God.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Ghost;

AS it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

Then shall be read the First Lesson, according to the Table or Calendar.

Hosea 6:1-6

“Come, let us return to the Lord;
for he has torn us, that he may heal us;
he has struck us down, and he will bind us up.

After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.

Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord;
his going out is sure as the dawn;
he will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.”

What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?

What shall I do with you, O Judah?

Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes early away.

Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have slain them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

After which shall be sung or said the Hymn called Magnificat, as followeth.

Magnificat. St. Luke i. 46.

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded * the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth * all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; * and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him * throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; * he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, * and hath exalted the humble and meek.

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He hath filled the hungry with good things; * and the rich he hath sent empty away.
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; * as he promised to our forefathers,
 Abraham and his seed, for ever.
 GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Ghost;
 AS it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

Then a Lesson of the New Testament, as it is appointed.

Hebrews 10:1-25

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near. Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, since the worshippers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any consciousness of sins? But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
 “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body have you prepared for me;
 in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
 as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,
 “This is the covenant that I will make with them
 after those days, declares the Lord:

I will put my laws on their hearts,
 and write them on their minds,” then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

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And after that shall be sung or said the Hymn called Nunc dimittis,
 LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, * according to thy word.
 For mine eyes have seen * thy salvation,
 Which thou hast prepared * before the face of all people;
 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, * and to be the glory of thy people Israel.
 GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Ghost;
 AS it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed by all people.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
 And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin
 Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The
 third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God
 the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of
 sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

The Leader first pronouncing,

The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Leader. Let us pray.

Leader. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Answer. And grant us thy salvation.

Leader. O Lord, save the State.

Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Leader. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. And make thy chosen people joyful.

Leader. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. And bless thine inheritance.

Leader. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

Leader. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Then shall be said the Collect for the Day, and after that the Collects and Prayers following.

Fifth Sunday in Lent

ALMIGHTY God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your
 people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and

varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Ash Wednesday

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Peace.

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

A Collect for Aid against Perils.

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In Time of Great Sickness and Mortality.

O MOST mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(You may continue here for the full service of Evening Prayer, or stop and offer your own prayers and have a time of devotion).

A Prayer for The President of the United States, and all in Civil Authority.

Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite; Have mercy upon this whole land; and so rule the hearts of thy servants THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, The Governor of this State, and all others in authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek thy honour and glory; and that we and all the People, duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honour them, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer for the Clergy and People.

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, especially +Walter and +Robert, and other Clergy, and upon the Congregations committed to

their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for All Conditions of Men.

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

(Here pause and offer your own prayers and thanksgivings.)

A General Thanksgiving. – Prayed together

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and lovingkindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

2 Cor. xiii. 14.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Here endeth the Order of Evening Prayer.