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**Evening Prayer from The Book of Common Prayer  
The Twenty third Sunday After Trinity.  
15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020**

God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God and God in him. *1 John 4.16*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us: but if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1.8,9*

Enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. *Psalms 143.2*

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

**All 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 them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu 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.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

O Lord, open thou our lips  
**and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

*Hymn* *Tune 'Hursley'*  
*For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Psa. 84:11*

1. Sun of my soul, Thou Saviour dear,  
It is not night if Thou be near;  
Oh, may no earthborn cloud arise  
To hide Thee from Thy servant's eyes.
2. When the soft dews of kindly sleep  
My wearied eyelids gently steep,  
Be my last thought, how sweet to rest  
Forever on my Saviour's breast.

3. Abide with me from morn till eve,  
For without Thee I cannot live;  
Abide with me when night is nigh,  
For without Thee I dare not die.
4. If some poor wand'ring child of Thine  
Has spurned today the voice divine,  
Now, Lord, the gracious work begin;  
Let him no more lie down in sin.
5. Watch by the sick, enrich the poor  
With blessings from Thy boundless store;  
Be every mourner's sleep tonight,  
Like infants' slumbers, pure and right.
6. Come near and bless us when we wake,  
Ere through the world our way we take,  
Till in the ocean of Thy love  
We lose ourselves in Heav'n above.

**Psalm 78** (from Day 15 Evening Prayer)

*Attendite, popule*

1. HEAR my law, O my people: incline your ears unto the words of my mouth.
2. **I will open my mouth in a parable: I will declare hard sentences of old;**
3. Which we have heard and known: and such as our fathers have told us;
4. **That we should not hide them from the children of the generations to come: but to shew the honour of the Lord, his mighty and wonderful works that he hath done.**
5. He made a covenant with Jacob, and gave Israel a law: which he commanded our forefathers to teach their children;
6. **That their posterity might know it: and the children which were yet unborn;**
7. To the intent that when they came up: they might shew their children the same;
8. **That they might put their trust in God: and not to forget the works of God, but to keep his commandments;**
9. And not to be as their forefathers, a faithless and stubborn generation: a generation that set not their heart aright,

and whose spirit cleaveth not stedfastly unto God;

10. **Like as the children of Ephraim: who being harnessed, and carrying bows, turned themselves back in the day of battle.**
11. They kept not the covenant of God: and would not walk in his law;
12. **But forgot what he had done: and the wonderful works that he had shewed for them.**
13. Marvellous things did he in the sight of our forefathers, in the land of Egypt: even in the field of Zoan.
14. **He divided the sea, and let them go through: he made the waters to stand on an heap.**
15. In the day-time also he led them with a cloud: and all the night through with a light of fire.
16. **He clave the hard rocks in the wilderness: and gave them drink thereof, as it had been out of the great depth.**
17. He brought waters out of the stony rock: so that it gushed out like the rivers.
18. **Yet for all this they sinned more against him: and provoked the most Highest in the wilderness.**

**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.**

*Old Testament Reading* Proverbs 3:1-26 KJV

**3** My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

<sup>2</sup> For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

<sup>3</sup> Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

<sup>4</sup> So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

<sup>6</sup> In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

<sup>7</sup> Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

<sup>8</sup> It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

<sup>10</sup> So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

<sup>11</sup> My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

<sup>12</sup> For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

<sup>13</sup> Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

<sup>14</sup> For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

<sup>15</sup> She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

<sup>16</sup> Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

<sup>17</sup> Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

<sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

<sup>19</sup> The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

<sup>20</sup> By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

<sup>21</sup> My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

<sup>22</sup> So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

<sup>23</sup> Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

<sup>24</sup> When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

<sup>25</sup> Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

<sup>26</sup> For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Here endeth the First lesson

### *Magnificat*

**1 My soul doth magnify the Lord : \* and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.**

**2 For he hath regarded : \*the lowliness of his handmaiden.**

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

**4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me : \* and holy is his Name.**

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

**6 He hath shewed strength with his arm : \* he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat : \* and hath exalted the humble and meek.**

**8 He hath filled the hungry with good things: \* and the rich he hath sent empty away.**

**9 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.**

### *New Testament Reading John 9 KJV*

John 9 King James Version

**9** And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

<sup>2</sup> And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

<sup>4</sup> I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

<sup>5</sup> As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

<sup>6</sup> When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

<sup>7</sup> And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

<sup>8</sup> The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?

<sup>9</sup> Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.

<sup>10</sup> Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened?

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.

<sup>12</sup> Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not.

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees him that aforetime was blind.

<sup>14</sup> And it was the sabbath day when Jesus made the clay, and opened his eyes.

<sup>15</sup> Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them, He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed, and do see.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

<sup>17</sup> They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.

<sup>18</sup> But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind, and received his sight, until they called the parents of him that had received his sight.

<sup>19</sup> And they asked them, saying, Is this your son, who ye say was born blind? how then doth he now see?

<sup>20</sup> His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind:

<sup>21</sup> But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself.

<sup>22</sup> These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him.

<sup>24</sup> Then again called they the man that was blind, and said unto him, Give God the praise: we know that this man is a sinner.

<sup>25</sup> He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.

<sup>26</sup> Then said they to him again, What did he to thee? how opened he thine eyes?

<sup>27</sup> He answered them, I have told you already, and ye did not hear: wherefore would ye hear it again? will ye also be his disciples?

<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, and said, Thou art his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples.

<sup>29</sup> We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.

<sup>30</sup> The man answered and said unto them, Why herein is a marvellous thing, that ye know not from whence he is, and yet he hath opened mine eyes.

<sup>31</sup> Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

<sup>32</sup> Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind.

<sup>33</sup> If this man were not of God, he could do nothing.

<sup>34</sup> They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

<sup>36</sup> He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

<sup>37</sup> And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

<sup>38</sup> And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

<sup>39</sup> And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind.

<sup>40</sup> And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also?

<sup>41</sup> Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth.

Here endeth the Second lesson

*Nunc dimittis*

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : \*according to thy word.  
2 For mine eyes have seen : \* thy salvation;  
3 Which thou hast prepared : \* before the face of all people;  
4 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.

*The Apostles' Creed*

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.

*Prayers*

The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen.

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

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

*The Collect of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity*

O ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, of thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that thou wouldest have done; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The 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 both, 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**

*The Collect for Aid against all 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**

*Prayers* Let us pray for the Queen, and all who are set In authority under her.

V. The Queen shall rejoice in thy strength  
R.. **Exceeding glad shall she be of thy salvation.**

ALMIGHTY God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless our Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, the Houses of Parliament and all who are set in authority under her that they may order all things in wisdom righteousness, and peace, to the honour of thy holy Name, and the

good of thy Church and people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** .

Let us pray for the unity of all Christian people.

V. Behold how good and joyful a thing it is, brethren:

**R. To dwell together in unity.**

O GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace; Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly Union and Concord, .that, as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one Hope of our Calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of Truth and Peace, of Faith and Charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for the extension of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world.

V. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace:

**R. And bring glad tidings of good things.**

O GOD, our heavenly Father, who didst manifest thy love by sending thine only begotten Son into the world that all might live through him: Pour thy Spirit upon thy Church that it may fulfil his command to preach the Gospel to every creature; send forth, we beseech thee, labourers into thy harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fulness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and all Israel shall be saved; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

V. Desire of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance:

**R. And the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession.**

O GOD, who hast made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son Jesus Christ to preach peace to them that are afar off, and to them that are nigh: Grant that all the peoples of the world may feel [seek?] after thee and find thee; and hasten, O Lord, the fulfilment of thy promise to

pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us pray for the sick and the suffering.

V. He healeth those that are broken in heart:

R. And giveth medicine to heal their sickness.

ALMIGHTY Father, Giver of life and health: Look mercifully, we beseech thee, on the sick and suffering, especially those for whom our prayers are desired, that by thy blessing upon them and upon those who minister to them, they may be restored, if it be thy gracious will, to health of body and mind, and give thanks to thee in thy Holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us remember before God the faithful departed.

V. Enter not into judgement with thy servants, O Lord:

**R. For in thy sight shall no man living be justified.**

O ETERNAL Lord God, who holdest all souls in life; we beseech thee to shed forth upon thy whole Church in paradise and on earth the bright beams of thy light and heavenly comfort; and grant that we, following the good example of those who have loved and served thee here and are now at rest, may with them at length enter into the fulness of thine unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

TO God the Father who loved us, and made us accepted in the Beloved, to God the Son who loved us and loosed us from our sins by his own Blood, to God the Holy Ghost who sheddeth the Love of God abroad in our hearts, to the One true God be all love and all glory for time and for eternity. *Amen.*

THE almighty and merciful God bless and keep us this night, and for evermore. *Amen.*

*Homily*

*Hymn*

1 **Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.**

2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

3

Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far  
And grace will lead me home.

4

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be,  
As long as life endures.

5

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
and mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

6

When we've been there ten thousand years  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we've first begun.

7

--John Newton, 1725-1807