

The Book of Common Prayer

Sunday, 24th May 2020

The Sixth Sunday after Easter

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]:

**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.**

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.

**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.
O come, let us sing unto the Lord :
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :
and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God :
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth :
and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it :
and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship, and fall down :
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God :
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts :
as in the provocation,
and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me :
proved me, and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said :
It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they have not known my ways.

Unto whom I swear in my wrath :
that they should not enter into my rest.]

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.

Psalm 68

Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered:
let them also that hate him flee before him.

² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away:
as wax melteth before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence
of God.

³ But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God:
yea, let them exceedingly rejoice.

⁴ Sing unto God, sing praises to his name:
extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name Jah,
and rejoice before him.

⁵ A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows,
is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ God setteth the solitary in families:
he bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land.

⁷ O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people,
when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah:

⁸ The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God:
even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

⁹ Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain,
whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

¹⁰ Thy congregation hath dwelt therein:
thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.

³² Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth;

O sing praises unto the Lord; Selah:

³³ To him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens,
which were of old; lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice.

³⁴ Ascribe ye strength unto God:

his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds.

³⁵ O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places:

the God of Israel is he that giveth strength and power unto his people.

Blessed be God.

At the end of each psalm these words are said

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.

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying,
Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

⁷ And he said unto them,

It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:

and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria,
and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up;
and a cloud received him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up,
behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?
this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven,
shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

¹² Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet,

which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

¹³ And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

¹⁴ These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Te Deum Laudamus

We praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein.
To thee cherubin and seraphin continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee:
the Father of an infinite majesty;
thine honourable, true and only Son;
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting.

O Lord, save thy people and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
and we worship thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

JOHN 17:1-11

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

² As thou hast given him power over all flesh,

that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

⁴ I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

⁶ I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

⁷ Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

⁸ For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

⁹ I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

¹⁰ And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

The Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :
for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :
in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :
which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies :
and from the hands of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :
and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham :
that he would give us,

That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies :
might serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him :
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :
for the remission of their sins;

Through the tender mercy of our God :
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness,
and in the shadow of death :
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

**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 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 Collects are said.

The Collect of the Day

O almighty God, who alone canst order unruly wills and affections of your sinful people;
Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest,
and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold
changes of the world, our hearts may surely fixed, where true joys are to be found;
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen.

The Collect in time of Pestilence, Sickness & Mortality

O ALMIGHTY God, the Lord of life and death, of health and sickness:
Have pity upon us miserable sinners, now visited with great sickness and mortality.
Withdraw from us this grievous affliction.
Sanctify to us, we beseech thee, this thy fatherly correction.
Enlarge our charity to relieve those who need our help.
Bless the remedies applied to assist them. Give us prudence to see, and vigour to use,
those means which thy providence affords, for preventing and alleviating such calamities.
And, above all, teach us to know how frail and uncertain our condition is, and so to number our days,
that we may seriously apply our hearts to that holy and heavenly wisdom, whilst we live here,
which may in the end bring us to life everlasting;
through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, thine only Son our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Peace

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,
in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life,
whose service is perfect freedom;
defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence,
may not fear the power of any adversaries;
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Collect for Grace

O Lord, our heavenly Father,
almighty and everlasting God,
who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day;
defend us in the same with thy mighty power;
and grant that this day we fall into no sin,
neither run into any kind of danger,
but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance,
to do always that is righteous in thy sight;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A sermon

In his Last Supper discourse Jesus speaks of his glory and the glory of his Father.

What is this glory?

It is the cross which Jesus speaks of here.

How does the cross reveal his glory?

In the cross God reveals the breadth of his great love for sinners and the power of redemption which cancels the debt of sin and reverses the curse of our condemnation.

Jesus gave his Father the supreme honour and glory through his obedience and willingness to go to the cross.

The greatest honor, trust, and love any person can give one's leader is through his obedience even to the point of sacrificing his own life.

In warfare the greatest honour belongs not to those who survive but to those who give the supreme sacrifice of their own lives for their fellow countrymen.

Jesus also speaks of the Father bringing glory to the Son through the great mystery of the Incarnation and Cross of Christ.

God the Father gave us his only begotten Son for our redemption and deliverance from slavery to sin and death. There is no greater proof of God's love for each and every person on the face of the earth than the Cross of Jesus Christ.

In the cross we see a new way of love – a love that is unconditional, sacrificial and generous beyond comprehension.

Jesus also speaks of eternal life.

What is eternal life? It is more than simply endless time.

Science today looks for ways to extend the duration of life; but that doesn't necessarily make life better for us here.

Eternal life is qualitative more than quantitative.

To have eternal life is to have the life of God within us.

When we possess eternal life we experience here and now something of God's majesty,

his peace, joy and love and the holiness which characterizes the life of God.

Jesus also speaks of the knowledge of God. Jesus tells his disciples that they can know the only true God. Knowledge of God is not simply limited to knowing something about God, but we can know God personally. The essence of Christianity, and what makes it distinct from Judaism and other religions, is the knowledge possible for each of us to personally know God as our Father.

To see Jesus is to see what God is like.

In Jesus we see the perfect love of God -- a God who cares intensely and who yearns over men and women, loving them to the point of laying down his life for them upon the Cross.

Jesus is the revelation of God -- a God who loves us completely, unconditionally and perfectly.

Do you seek unity of heart, mind and will with God and unity of love and peace with your neighbour?

Let us pray

"If only I possessed the grace, good Jesus, to be utterly at one with you!

Amidst all the variety of worldly things around me, Lord, the only thing I crave is unity with you.

You are all my soul needs.

Unite, dear friend of my heart, this unique little soul of mine to your perfect goodness.

You are all mine; when shall I be yours?

Lord Jesus, my beloved, be the magnet of my heart; clasp, press, unite me for ever to your sacred heart.

You have made me for yourself; make me one with you.

Absorb this tiny drop of life into the ocean of goodness whence it came."

(Prayer of Francis de Sales, 1567-1622)

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.