

READINGS, COLLECT, HYMNS AND SERMON

9TH JULY 2020

ON-LINE INTROIT HYMN AWAKE, MY SOUL, AND WITH THE SUN

- 1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun
thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise
to pay thy morning sacrifice.
- 2 Redeem thy misspent time that's past,
And live this day as if the last;
Improve thy talent with due care;
For the great day thyself prepare
- 3 Let all thy converse be sincere,
Thy conscience as the noon-day clear;
Think how all-seeing God thy ways
And all thy secret thoughts surveys.
- 4 Wake, and lift up thyself, my heart,
And with the angels bear thy part,
Who all night long unwearied sing
High praise to the eternal King.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thomas Ken (1637 – 1711)

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THE COLLECT

The priest may say

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

The priest says the Collect of the Day.

Let us pray.

O God, who hast prepared
for them that love thee
such good things
as pass our understanding:

pour into our hearts such love toward thee
that we,
loving thee in all things
and above all things,
may obtain thy promises
which exceed all that we can desire;

through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE EPISTLE

We read the Collect of the Day.

The Epistle is written in the 8th chapter of St Paul's Epistle to the Romans beginning at the 12th verse.

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors,
not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh -

¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die;
but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body,
you will live.

¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.

When we cry, 'Abba! Father!'

¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,

¹⁷and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ –
if, in fact, we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time
are not worth comparing with the glory
about to be revealed to us.

¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God;

²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility,
not of its own will

but by the will of the one who subjected it,
in hope ²¹that the creation itself
will be set free from its bondage to decay
and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation
has been groaning in labour pains until now;

²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption,
the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴For in hope we were saved.

Now hope that is seen is not hope.
For who hopes for what is seen?

²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see,
we wait for it with patience.

At the end

Here endeth the Epistle.

ON-LINE GRADUAL HYMN: BLESSED ASSURANCE

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.*

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Saviour am happy and blest,
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain

Blessed Assurance
Phoebe Palmer Knapp (1839 – 1908)

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GOSPEL READING

Please remain standing.

The holy Gospel is written in the 13th chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, beginning at the 24th verse. (✠)

We may respond

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

(✠)

²⁴Jesus put before the crowd another parable:

‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone
who sowed good seed in his field;

²⁵but while everybody was asleep,
an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat,
and then went away.

²⁶So when the plants came up and bore grain
then the weeds appeared as well.

²⁷And the slaves of the householder came and said to him,
“Master, did you not sow good seed in your field?
Where, then, did these weeds come from?”

²⁸He answered,
“An enemy has done this.”

The slaves said to him,
“Then do you want us to go and gather them?”

²⁹But he replied,
“No; for in gathering the weeds
you would uproot the wheat along with them.

³⁰Let both of them grow together until the harvest;
and at harvest time I will tell the reapers,
“Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned,
but gather the wheat into my barn.”

³⁶Then Jesus left the crowds and went into the house.
And his disciples approached him, saying,
‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’

³⁷He answered,
‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man;
³⁸the field is the world,
and the good seed are the children of the kingdom;
the weeds are the children of the evil one,
³⁹and the enemy who sowed them is the devil;
the harvest is the end of the age,
and the reapers are angels.

⁴⁰Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire,
so will it be at the end of the age.

⁴¹The Son of Man will send his angels,
and they will collect out of his kingdom
all causes of sin and all evildoers,
⁴²and they will throw them into the furnace of fire,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.

Let anyone with ears listen!

Matthew 13.24-30,36-43

At the end the reader may say

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All may respond

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

AFTER THE GOSPEL

May the words of the gospel
wipe away our sins.

SERMON BY CATHY MATHEWS

Romans 8 v 12 - 25

Paul suffered a lot. As he says in his second letter to the Corinthians, he was in prison, flogged, at risk of death many times, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, robbed, hungry and thirsty, and much more. He definitely knew what it is to suffer. Most people would say that applies to them too. We suffer in different ways. Sometimes on our own behalf, sometimes on behalf of those we love, or others.

And this is one reason that many use as an excuse not to follow Jesus. "How can a good God create a world with so much suffering?" Etc. You have heard it all before.

We live in a fallen world so suffering is part of our lot. God did not intend this. But the angel Lucifer was thrown out of heaven because he got too big for his boots and he is responsible for some of our suffering. And we bring some of it on ourselves because of the choices we make, both as a society and individually. Plus Adam and Eve sinned and separated us from God. Jesus has got it all sorted now, but that cosmic event is still in the process of playing out.

Paul understands suffering. In the reading today from his Epistle to the Romans, we see that he believes with mind and heart that our suffering will pale into insignificance when compared with the glory that will, one day, be revealed in us.

With regard to the situation of Christians in this life, Paul goes further. In his first letter to the Corinthians he says,

"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." I
Corinthians 15 v 19

So clearly, if being a follower of Jesus just affected the quality of our current life, Paul thinks we would be in a pretty sorry state. But if we think in terms of eternity, then that puts a completely different complexion on things.

Having started this talk by focussing on suffering, I would now like to think about the glory that Paul says will be revealed in us. That might make us feel better! What does "glory" mean? There are many definitions. One of them is "the splendour, holiness and majesty of God". It is often used in the sense of someone experiencing God's presence in a tangible way, perhaps listening to a wonderful performance of Handel's Messiah, for example. God's glory.

And what does "revealed in us" mean? This implies that it is already in us now, just waiting to be revealed. Indeed, again as Paul says, we have already received the first fruits of the Spirit. In other words, Christians have received the Holy Spirit. The problem is that he leaks out of us. We need frequently to ask God to fill us anew. In heaven we will be completely full of the Spirit. And overflowing.

The manifestation of God's glory in the Bible comes in the form of the Shekinah glory. Shekinah is the Hebrew word for the presence of God on earth. One example of this was the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night that guided the Israelites through the desert after they escaped from Egypt.

But of course, ultimately if we want to know what God's glory looks like then we only have to look at Jesus. It says in the gospel of John,

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." *John 1 v 14*

So grace and truth come into the definition of glory as well.

This is how God's glory expresses itself in the New Jerusalem. In the book of Revelation, the holy city, the New Jerusalem, heaven upon earth, comes down out of heaven. We read,

"It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal." *Revelation 21 v 11*

Later on we read about the walls of the city being made of every type of precious stone; jasper, sapphire, chalcedony, (don't know what that is), emerald, sardonyx, carnelian, etc. The great street of the city is pure gold. I guess that reflects something of God's glory!

I am sure we can all think of an example of a person, perhaps old and perhaps ill, perhaps close to death, who is suffering in some way, and yet despite this, or perhaps because of it, exudes the most glorious radiance. Perhaps this is a hint of what it will be like in heaven.

Jesus suffered. He suffered in our place, so that, instead of being separated from God for eternity, we might have a glorious future with him in heaven. He suffered on behalf of every person who has ever lived or who will ever live on this planet. Then he rose to glory.

Dare we rejoice that we are sharing in his suffering so that we may, as Paul says, also share in his glory? It is not easy to be so brave. We can ask the Spirit for help.

And let us hope and wait patiently, as Paul suggests, for God's glory to be fully revealed in us.

When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, having received the Ten Commandments, his face was so radiant with the glory of God that he had to wear a veil. Paul says, in his second letter to the Corinthians,

"Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away....and we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory."
2 Corinthians 3 v 16...

Let us pray.

Dear Lord

Please fill us to overflowing with the Holy Spirit.

May we have the faith and the courage truly to believe that all the troubles that we suffer during our lives are insignificant when compared with the glory that we will know when we are with you in heaven. May the suffering be an opportunity to learn, so that we might better show your glory to others. May your glory be revealed through our words and actions. May we reflect the light of Jesus and shine as lights in the world. Amen

ON-LINE OFFERTORY HYMN: ALLELUIA SING TO JESUS

- 1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the sceptre, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of every nation
Hath redeemed us by His blood."
- 2 Alleluia! Not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us:
Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
"I am with you evermore"?
- 3 Alleluia! Bread of angels,
Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
Flee to Thee from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,

Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

- 4 Alleluia! King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
Earth Thy footstool, heaven Thy throne.
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Thou on earth both priest and victim
In the Eucharistic Feast.

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898).

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**On-Line POST-COMMUNION HYMN:
NOW, MY TONGUE, THE MYSTERY TELLING**

- 1 Now, my tongue, the mystery telling
Of the glorious body sing,
And the blood, all price excelling,
Which the Gentiles' Lord and King,
In a Virgin's womb once dwelling,
Shed for this world's ransoming.
- 2 Given for us, and condescending
To be born for us below,
He, with us in converse blending,
Dwelt the seed of truth to sow,
'Til he closed with wondrous ending
His most patient life of woe.
- 3 That last night, at supper lying,
'Mid the Twelve, his chosen band,
Jesus, with the law complying,
Keeps the feast its rites demand;
Then, more precious food supplying,
Gives himself with his own hand.
- 3 Word-made-flesh, true bread he maketh
By his word his flesh to be,
Wine his blood; which whoso taketh
Must from carnal thoughts be free:
Faith alone, though sight forsaketh,
Shows true hearts the mystery.
- 4 Therefore we, before him bending,
This great sacrament revere:
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes our inward vision clear.

5 Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honour, might, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who, from both, with both is One.

Now, my tongue, the mystery telling
St. Thomas Aquinas (1227 – 1274)
Trans: Edward Caswall (1814 – 1878)
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ON-LINE RECESSIONAL HYMN: PRAISE MY SOUL THE KING OF HEAVEN

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet Thy tribute bring!
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him! praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King!
- 2 Praise Him for His grace and favour,
To our fathers in distress!
Praise Him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless!
Praise Him! praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness!
- 3 Father-like, He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes,
Praise Him! praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows!
- 4 Angels, help us to adore Him;
Ye behold Him face to face:
Sun and moon, bow down before Him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise Him! praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven
Henry Francis Lyte (1793 – 1847)

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Scriptural texts: The Authorized Version or King James Version of 1611

A Form of Spiritual Communion compiled by The Bishop of Melanesia. The Rt Revd Cecil John Wood

http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/wood_communion1916.html, accessed 25 April 2020

Mass Setting

The Book of Common Prayer: Noted by John Merbecke (in Public Domain) © played by John Key who is acknowledged with thanks.

Music:

Opening Voluntary

All people that on earth do dwell

William Kethe (d. 1594) Day's Psalter (1560).

OLD HUNDREDTH

Louis Bourgeois (c.1510 – c.1561)

Source: Hymnal: Genevan Psalter, (1551)

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Processional Hymn

Awake, my soul, and with the sun

Thomas Ken (1637 – 1711)

MORNING HYMN

François-Hippolyte Barthélemon (1741 – 1808)

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Gradual Hymn

Blessed Assurance

Pheobe Palmer Knapp (1839 – 1908)

BLESSED ASSURANCE

Fanny Jane Crosby (1820-1915)

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Offertory Hymn

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

William Chatterton Dix (1837 – 1898).

HYFRYDOL

Rowland Huw Pritchard (1811 – 1887)

Arr: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958)

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Post Communion Hymn

Now, my tongue, the mystery telling

St. Thomas Aquinas (1227 – 1274)

Trans: Edward Caswall (1814 – 1878) (Public Domain)

GRAFTON (*TANTUM ERGO*)

Traditional French Melody (Public Domain)

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Recessional Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven

Henry Francis Lyte (1793 – 1847)

PRAISE MY SOUL

John Goss (1800 – 1880)

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Closing Voluntary

Little Prelude and Fugue #1 in C (BWV 553)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 -1750) – BWV 553. One of the eight little preludes and fugues attributed to Johann Sebastian Bach but probably written by a pupil, Johann Tobias Krebs or Johann Ludwig Krebs. Performance © 2018 Richard M S Irwin. Certain Rights Reserved.

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