

**MORNING PRAYER  
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
20 SEPTEMBER 2020**



‘The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard’, Patrick Paezarz de Wet,  
mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.

**HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, WANGARATTA**

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

God of all goodness, like the vineyard owner, your grace is extravagant and unexpected, and from your providing hand even those who are dissatisfied and complaining receive what they need for their lives. Teach us your ways of justice and lead us to practice your generosity and to accept your grace, that we may witness to your love, which embraces those we call friend and stranger. We ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

HYMN

FATHER, HEAR THE PRAYER WE OFFER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFoactKMJHQ>

- 1 Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.
- 2 Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.
- 3 Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.
- 4 Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

Love M. Whitcomb Willis (1859)

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing;  
it is the gift of God.

Ephesians 2.8-9

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

*The Opening Canticle, A Song of the Word of the Lord, is said*

Seek the Lord while he may be found:  
call upon him while he is near;  
Let the wicked abandon their ways:  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
Return to the Lord,  
who will have mercy:  
to our God, who will richly pardon.  
'For my thoughts are not your thoughts:  
neither are your ways my ways', says the Lord.

'For as the heavens are higher than the earth:  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
'As the rain and the snow come down from above:  
and return not again but water the earth,  
'Bringing forth life and giving growth:  
seed for sowing and bread to eat,  
'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth:  
it will not return to me fruitless,  
'But it will accomplish that which I purpose:  
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

Isaiah 55.6-11

### *The Opening Prayer*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever. Amen.

### *CONFESSION*

*A pause for self-examination is taken before the confession is said.*

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love,  
but we have broken your holy laws  
and have left undone what we ought to have done.  
We are sorry for our sins  
and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us,  
forgive us, cleanse us and change us.  
By your Holy Spirit,  
enable us to live for you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even  
when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with  
Christ – by grace you have been saved.

Ephesians 2:4-5

*Psalm 105: 1-6, 37-45.*

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name:  
tell among the peoples what things he has done.
- 2 Sing to him, O sing praises:  
and be telling of all his marvellous works.
- 3 Exult in his holy name:  
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.
- 4 Seek the Lord and his strength:  
O seek his face continually.
- 5 Call to mind what wonders he has done:  
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,
- 6 O seed of Abraham his servant:  
O children of Jacob his chosen one.
- 37 He brought Israel out with silver and with gold:  
and not one among their tribes was seen to stumble.
- 38 Egypt was glad at their going:  
for dread of Israel had fallen upon them.
- 39 He spread out a cloud for a covering:  
and fire to lighten the night.
- 40 The people asked, and he brought them quails:  
and satisfied them with the bread from heaven.
- 41 He opened a rock, so that the waters gushed:  
and ran in the parched land like a river.
- 42 For he had remembered his holy word:  
that he gave to Abraham his servant.
- 43 So he led out his people with rejoicing:  
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
- 44 He gave them the land of the nations:  
and they took possession of the fruit  
for which other peoples had toiled,
- 45 So that they might keep his statutes:  
and faithfully obey his laws. O praise the Lord.

or Psalm 105

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRhJyHiJTZU>

Creator God, whose praise and power are proclaimed by the whole creation: receive our morning prayers, we pray, and renew us in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Exodus 16:2-15

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, 'If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.' So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, 'In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain against us?' And Moses said, 'When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.'

Then Moses said to Aaron, 'Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, "Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining."' And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked towards the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, "At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God."'

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, 'What is it?' For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, 'It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.'

HYMN

THROUGH ALL THE CHANGING SCENES OF LIFE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ox1r0OzIwoo>

- 1 Through all the changing scenes of life,  
in trouble and in joy,  
the praises of my God shall still  
my heart and tongue employ.
- 2 Of his deliverance I will boast,  
till all that are distressed  
from my example comfort take,  
and charm their griefs to rest.
- 3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me;  
with me exalt his name;  
when in distress to him I called,  
he to my rescue came.
- 4 Fear him, ye saints, and you will then  
have nothing else to fear;  
make you his service your delight,  
your wants shall be his care.

Words: Tate and Brady's New Version, 1696, 1698

SECOND READING

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour,

and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?” So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

May your word live in us, and bear much fruit to your glory.

## SERMON

### *The Canticle, A Song of Isaiah*

‘Behold, God is my salvation:

I will trust and will not be afraid;

‘For the Lord God is my strength and my song:  
and has become my salvation.’

With joy you will draw water:  
from the wells of salvation.

On that day you will say:

‘Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name;

‘Make known his deeds among the nations:  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

‘Sing God’s praises, who has triumphed gloriously:  
let this be known in all the world.

‘Shout and sing for joy, you that dwell in Zion:  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.’

Isaiah 12.2-6

HYMN

LEAD US, HEAVENLY FATHER, LEAD US

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGsvbqErM2A>

- 1     Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
      o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
      guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
      for we have no help but thee;  
      yet possessing every blessing,  
      if our God our Father be.
- 2     Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
      all our weakness thou dost know;  
      thou didst tread this earth before us,  
      thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
      lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
      through the desert thou didst go.
- 3     Spirit of our God, descending,  
      fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
      love with every passion blending,  
      pleasure that can never cloy:  
      thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
      nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1821)

*The Apostles' Creed is said.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.



I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*The Prayers*

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

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 for ever. Amen.

*The Collect of the Day*

Loving and righteous God, your boundless generosity exceeds all that we can desire or deserve, and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first: liberate us from all jealousy and greed, that we may be free to love and serve others, and in your service may find our true reward; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## CHORAL MUSIC

‘The eyes of all wait upon thee’, Orlando Gibbons  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8SO-6FeuPWc>

‘Simile est regnum caelorum’, Cristóbal Morales  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zisDSg-kB1I>

‘He Watching Over Israel’, from ‘Elijah’, Felix Mendelssohn  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DA5GE8WyJQ>

‘Seek ye the Lord’, John Varley Roberts  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK\\_RQHAczok](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KK_RQHAczok)

### *Intercessions*

Loving God, your generosity is beyond our imagining and all we have is given by you: hear the prayers we bring for your people.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the extravagant generosity of your creation, for its beauty to delight and its bounty to sustain us. We pray for peace and prosperity of the world; for those who have no daily bread, no shelter or medical care, especially those who have received no care during the coronavirus pandemic. Free us from our greed and indifference, that we may learn to share the resources of the earth and live in harmony with your created world.

Ever-generous God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks and praise, for your abundant mercy towards your people. We pray for the mission and ministry of your church; praying today for the Diocese of Riverina, for Bishop Donald Kirk, and for the clergy and people of that Diocese, for the Cathedral of St. Alban the Martyr in Griffith, for the Dean, the Very Rev'd Rob Harris, and for the clergy and people of that Cathedral. Within our own Diocese, we pray for our Bishop Clarence and today for the Parish of Rutherglen/Chiltern, for Priest in Charge Scott Jessup and his family, and for the Parish leaders and communities Rutherglen, Chiltern, Barnawartha, Wahgunyah Brown's Plains.

Ever-generous God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for your unconditional love for your people, for your acceptance of all people without partiality. We continue to pray for all those who work in the health sector and in our emergency services, praying for their safety and health. Free us from selfishness and envy, that we may establish a true community of care, where no one is neglected, unwanted or unloved.

Ever-generous God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for your unfailing compassion for your people, for your sustaining care in time of need. We pray for all who are sick and for all who care for them. We pray especially for all those on our parish list of prayer: for Bill, Penny, Joanne, Gwen, Dorothy, Greg, Matthew, Heather, Sonya, Patrick, Sylvia, Robyn, David, Marj, Bronwyn, Kevin, Kimberley, Nicola and Sarah. From them from pain, that they may find comfort in their sorrow, hope in their fear, and peace in your presence. Ever-generous God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for you lead your people from the bonds of death to the freedom of everlasting life. We remember all those who have died in your love, the recently departed and those whose Years Mind falls at this time. Free us from all that binds us in death, that following the example of your saints, we may rise with them to eternal life. Ever-generous God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

### *The Morning Collect*

Lord and heavenly Father, you have brought us safely to this new day: keep us by your mighty power, protect us from sin, guard us from every kind of danger, and in all we do this day direct us in the fulfilling of your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13.14

HYMN

THY HAND, O GOD, HAS GUIDED

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=esJ7WWqG-dI>

- 1 Thy hand, O God, has guided  
thy flock from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written  
full clear on every page.  
Thy people owned thy goodness,  
and we their deeds record;  
and both to this bear witness:  
One Church, One Faith, One Lord!
- 2 Through many a day of darkness  
through many a scene of strife  
the faithful few fought bravely  
to guard the nation's life.  
Their gospel of redemption  
sin pardoned, man restored  
was all in this enfolded  
One Church, One Faith, One Lord!
- 3 Thy mercy will not fail us  
nor leave thy work undone;  
with thy right hand to help us  
the victory shall be won.  
And then by all creation  
thy name shall be adored;  
and this shall be our anthem:  
One Church, One Faith, One Lord!

E. H. Plumptre (1864)

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Messe pour les Paroisses, Benedictus, Élévation  
François Couperin

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ\\_BUNk330g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ_BUNk330g)

The Service is adapted from 'Daily Prayer – Sunday Morning' from A Prayer Book for Australia 1995, published under the imprint Broughton Books. © The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission.