

MORNING PRAYER
THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
12 JULY 2020



The Parable of the Sower window—Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, WANGARATTA

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Ancient Gardener, your Holy Word is planted in our hearts as good seed in the soil. Plant us now in good soil, that our lives may flower in righteousness and peace and that we may bear fruit abundantly for the life of your Kingdom, which you have shown us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zF8ySVmNcpM>

- 1 Come down, O Love divine,
 Seek thou this soul of mine,
 And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
 O Comforter, draw near,
 Within my heart appear,
 And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
- 2 O let it freely burn,
 Till earthly passions turn
 To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
 And let thy glorious light
 Shine ever on my sight,
 And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
- 3 Let holy charity
 Mine outward vesture be,
 And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
 True lowliness of heart,
 Which takes the humbler part,
 And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.
- 4 And so the yearning strong,
 With which the soul will long,
 Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
 For none can guess its grace,
 Till we become the place
 Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco da Siena, 15th century, Tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1867)

The words you have spoken are spirit and life, O Lord; you have the words of eternal life.

John 6.63, 68

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

The Canticle, A Song of the Knowledge of Wisdom is said:

O God of our ancestors and Lord of mercy:
you have made all things by your word.

By your wisdom you have formed us:
to have influence over all your creation,

To be stewards of the world in holiness and righteousness:
and to administer justice with an upright heart.

Give us Wisdom who sits by your throne:
do not refuse us a place among your servants,

For Wisdom knows your works:
and was present when you made the world.

She understands what is pleasing in your sight:
and what accords with your commandments.

Send her from the holy heavens:
from the throne of your glory bid her come,

That she may labour at our side:
and we may learn what is pleasing to you.

For she knows and understands all things:
and will guide us prudently in our actions
and protect us with her glory.

Wisdom 9.1-6, 9-11

The Opening Prayer - Silence may be kept.

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.

God of all mercy,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We have wandered from your way.
We have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us.
Have mercy on us,
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit
that we may live the new life to your glory.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son
to be the perfect offering for our sins. 1 John 4:10

Psalm 119: 105-112

- 105 Your word is a lantern to my feet:
and a light to my path.
- 106 I have vowed and sworn an oath:
to keep your righteous judgements.
- 107 I have been afflicted beyond measure:
Lord, give me life according to your word.
- 108 Accept, O Lord, the freewill offerings of my mouth:
and teach me your judgements.
- 109 I take my life in my hands continually:
yet I do not forget your law.
- 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me:
but I have not strayed from your precepts.
- 111 Your commands are my inheritance for ever:
they are the joy of my heart.
- 112 I have set my heart to fulfil your statutes:
always, even to the end.

or Psalm 65

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K35KXs5gjiI>

After the Psalm, the following prayer is said:

God of grace, we thank you for all your gifts to us: grant us to accept both pain and joy in faith and hope, and never to fail in love to you and to our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 25:19-34

A reading from the book of Genesis

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger." When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them. When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

HYMN

LORD, THY WORD ABIDETH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSCxsNYy2G0>

- 1 Lord, thy word abideth,
And our footsteps guideth;
Who its truth believeth,
Light and joy receiveth.
- 2 When our foes are near us,
Then thy word doth cheer us,
Word of consolation,
Message of salvation.
- 3 When the storms are o'er us,
And dark clouds before us,
Then its light directeth,
And our way protecteth.
- 4 Who can tell the pleasure,
Who recount the treasure
By thy word imparted
To the simple-hearted?
- 5 Word of mercy, giving
Succour to the living;
Word of life, supplying
Comfort to the dying.
- 6 O that we discerning
Its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
Evermore be near thee!

H. W. Baker (1861)

SECOND READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!" "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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

SERMON

The 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

HYMN

O FOR A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSCxsNYy2G0>

- 1 O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!
- 2 Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.
- 3 The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.
- 4 So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper (1772)

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

Bountiful God,
we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit,
help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it,
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CHORAL MUSIC

‘Quàm dilecta tabernacula tua Domine virtutum’, André Campra

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=255vdv1UF0c>

‘God Be in My Head’, John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGMcFt61yjo>

‘Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring’, BWV 147, J.S. Bach

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wo2P_mfFAU

‘O How Amiable’, Ralph Vaughan Williams

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncpxORHLD4Q>

Intercessions

Bountiful God, hear the prayers we bring you for your world and for your church.

We pray for the peoples of the world: for those oppressed by oppressive governments; for those in countries destroyed by war and for all those throughout the world who are still struggling through the coronavirus pandemic, especially those in countries who do not have the resources to combat this virus, or those in countries whose leaders do not take its threat seriously.

Bountiful God, grow in us; teach us to resolve our differences without violence and cruelty, that wars may cease and all your people learn to live in harmony.

Bountiful God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your church: for the leaders, councils and synods of the church: for all whom minister and who seek to faithfully follow you.

Within the Anglican Church of Australia, we pray today for the Diocese of Grafton, for Bishop Murray Harvey and for the clergy and people of that Diocese. For Christ Church Cathedral, Grafton, for the Dean, the Very Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks, and the clergy and people of Grafton Cathedral.

Within our own Diocese, we pray for Clarence our Bishop and today for the Parochial District of Euroa; for Priest Assisting Paul Hobby, for his family Lisa, Faith and Grace and for the leaders and congregations of St Paul's Euroa, St. Andrew's Longwood and St. Dunstan's Violet Town.

Bountiful God, grow in us; give us ears to hear, eyes to see and hearts to understand, that we may receive your word and bear much fruit to your glory.

Bountiful God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our community, for those with whom we live and work, for our families, our neighbours and ourselves.

We pray for our State of Victoria, as we undergo difficult and troubling times with the spread of the coronavirus. We pray for governments at all levels as they seek to stop its spread, and we pray for wise decision-making by our leaders, and patience and good sense from the people of our state.

Bountiful God, grow in us; help us to act with kindness and patience with those around us, that we may build relationships of mutual affection, trust, generosity and respect.

Bountiful God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those in need: for those who live in poverty, those who suffer discrimination because of their ethnicity or faith. We pray for those who are cast aside by society, for all who are sick and all who care for them.

the dying. We pray for all those on our parish list of prayer, for Bill Salisbury, Penny Kenny, Joanne Steel, Gwen Pritchard, Dorothy Gibson, Greg Hynard, Matthew Dykes, Heather, Sonya, Patrick French, Sylvia Noon, Robyn, David, Marj Hoysted, Bronwyn Binks and Kimberley.

Bountiful God, grow in us; increase in us concern for one another, that with warm and open hearts we may bring care and comfort to your people.

Bountiful God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful departed: for those who have received and understood your word and have shared it with others; for your people from this parish whose Years Mind occurs at this time.

Bountiful God, grow in us; set us free from all that keeps us from life in its fullness, and may we, with all your faithful servants in every age, be raised to everlasting life.

Bountiful 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

KING OF GLORY, KING OF PEACE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xw2jpBwa2lo>

- 1 King of glory, King of peace,
I will love thee;
And that love may never cease,
I will move thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,
Thou hast spared me.
- 2 Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing thee,
And the cream of all my heart
I will bring thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
And alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.

3 Seven whole days, not one in seven,
 I will praise thee;
 In my heart, though not in heaven,
 I can raise thee.
 Small it is, in this poor sort
 To enrol thee:
 E'en eternity's too short
 To extol thee.

George Herbert (1633)

ORGAN POSTLUDE 'Liebster Jesu, Wir Sind Hier', BWV 633, J. S. Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BzrFnRbHHRy>

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