



# Morning Prayer

Sunday, March 29, 2020  
The Fifth Sunday in Lent



## Instructions for Use

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Episcopalians have used the service of Morning Prayer for centuries. The canticles and prayers are particularly poignant during Lent. The texts chosen below reflect the penitential and introspective nature of Lent. We invite you to dwell in the optional periods of silence for reflection and contemplation.

This particular service of Morning Prayer has been set for use by non-ordained persons (lay persons) and congregants to say either alone or together. It follows the readings for Sunday morning.

If two or more people are to read the service, it is easily facilitated by designating one person as the Officiant and another as the Lector who may also act as the Intercessor.

Lastly, it is not form but our intention of prayer that matters most. Should the liturgy need to be adjusted for constraints, please refer to rubrics in the *Book of Common Prayer* for suggestions on alternate readings, canticles, and prayers.

The source material for this service is the *Book of Common Prayer*, [lectionarypage.net](http://lectionarypage.net), and [missionstclare.com](http://missionstclare.com) for order suggestions.

## Opening Sentences

*The Officiant begins the service with one or more of these sentences of Scripture,*

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *I John 1:8, 9*

Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. *Joel 2:13*

I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." *Luke 15:18, 19*

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, because we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws which he set before us. *Daniel 9:9, 10*

Jesus said, "If anyone will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." *Mark 8:34*

## Confession of Sin

BCP 79

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*or this*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Officiant says*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

# The Invitatory and Psalter

BCP 80

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*Officiant and People*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Officiant* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People* **Come let us adore him.**

**Jubilate *Psalm 100***

BCP 82

*Officiant and People*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.  
Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

*Officiant* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People* **Come let us adore him.**

**The Psalm or Psalms Appointed: Psalm 130**

BCP 784

*Lector* The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm 130. We will read the Psalm in unison.

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;  
LORD, hear my voice; \*  
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.**
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, \*  
O Lord, who could stand?**
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; \*  
therefore you shall be feared.**
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; \*  
in his word is my hope.**
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,  
more than watchmen for the morning, \*  
more than watchmen for the morning.**
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, \*  
for with the LORD there is mercy;**
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, \*  
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said by all*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Lector* A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

**T**he hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle 12, A Song of Creation, *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

**BCP 88**

*Officiant and People*

**Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \***  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \***  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

#### *II The Earth and its Creatures*

**Let the earth glorify the Lord, \***  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

**Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,**  
**and all that grows upon the earth, \***  
**praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.  
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### *III The People of God*

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### *Doxology*

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### **The Second Lesson: Roman 8:6-11**

*Lector* A reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

**T**o set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-- indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 10, The Second Song of Isaiah, *Quaerite Dominum***

**BCP 86**

*Officiant and People*

**Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \*  
call upon him when he draws near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways \*  
and the evil ones their thoughts:  
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \*  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \*  
nor 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.  
For as the rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen**

### **The Gospel Lesson: John 11:1-45**

*Lector* A reading from the Gospel of John.

**N**ow a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of

them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## The Apostles' Creed

BCP 96

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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

BCP 97

*The People stand or kneel*

*Officiant*     The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

*Officiant*     Let us pray.



*Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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.**

*Then follows one of these sets of Suffrages*

**BCP 98**

*Officiant* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
*People* **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**  
*Officiant* Day by day we bless you;  
*People* **We praise your Name for ever.**  
*Officiant* Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
*People* **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**  
*Officiant* Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
*People* **For we put our trust in you.**  
*Officiant* In you, Lord, is our hope;  
*People* **And we shall never hope in vain.**

**The Collect of the Day**

**BCP 219**

*Officiant*

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**A Collect for Sundays**

**BCP 835**

*Officiant*

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great Day; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**A Collect for Guidance**

**BCP 99**

*Officiant*

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Prayers of the People: Form V**

**BCP 389**

*Intercessor* In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy”  
For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Brian our own Bishop, for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For ourselves; for the forgiveness of our sins, and for the grace of the Holy Spirit to amend our lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For this congregation, for those who are present, and for those who are absent, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Intercessor* In this time and in this space, you are invited to share the prayers and concerns of your heart either silently or aloud.

*Silence may be kept*

*Intercessor* Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

*People* **To you, O Lord our God.**

*Silence may be kept*

*The Officiant adds the following Doxology*

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*Before the close of the Office one or both of the following may be used*

## **The General Thanksgiving**

**BCP 101**

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

## A General Thanksgiving

BCP 836

*Officiant and People*

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. *Amen.*

## A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP 102

*Officiant, or Officiant and People*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

*Then may be said*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

The grace of our 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*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.* *Romans 15:13*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.* *Ephesians 3:20,21*