

Morning Prayer on Thursday
Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179 [Lesser Festival]
17th September 2020

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, creator of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your dawn renews the face of the earth
bringing light and life to all creation,
may we rejoice in this day you have made;
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is 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.**

Psalm 14

1The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' ♦
Corrupt are they, and abominable in their wickedness;
there is no one that does good.

**2The Lord has looked down from heaven
upon the children of earth, ♦
to see if there is anyone who is wise**

and seeks after God.

3But every one has turned back;
all alike have become corrupt: ♦
there is none that does good; no, not one.

**4Have they no knowledge, those evildoers, ♦
who eat up my people as if they ate bread
and do not call upon the Lord?**

5There shall they be in great fear; ♦
for God is in the company of the righteous.

**6Though they would confound the counsel of the poor, ♦
yet the Lord shall be their refuge.**

7O that Israel's salvation would come out of Zion! ♦
When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

Psalm 15

1Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? ♦
Who may rest upon your holy hill?

**2Whoever leads an uncorrupt life ♦
and does the thing that is right;**

3Who speaks the truth from the heart ♦
and bears no deceit on the tongue;

**4Who does no evil to a friend ♦
and pours no scorn on a neighbour;**

5In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, ♦
but who honours those who fear the Lord.

**6Whoever has sworn to a neighbour ♦
and never goes back on that word;**

7Who does not lend money in hope of gain, ♦
nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

**8Whoever does these things ♦
shall never fall.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now**

and shall be for ever. Amen.

Lord, lead us to our heavenly home
by single steps of self-restraint
and deeds of righteousness;
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Canticle

**I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

Thus says God, who created the heavens, ♦
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;
**Who gives breath to the people upon it ♦
and spirit to those who walk in it,**
'I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness, ♦
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
**'I have given you as a covenant to the people, ♦
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,**
'To bring out the captives from the dungeon, ♦
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.
**'I am the Lord, that is my name; ♦
my glory I give to no other.'**

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

**I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

A reading from Acts 15.1-21

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no

small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

"After this I will return,
and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;
from its ruins I will rebuild it,
and I will set it up,
so that all other peoples may seek the Lord —

even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.”

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.’

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

There will be a brief time of silence before the Responsory for reflection

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

from Isaiah 43

The Benedictus

**They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as an eagle.**

**+ Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

Luke 1.68-79

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

**They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as an eagle.**

Prayers for the world, for others and for our parish will be offered, using
the response:

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said:

Most glorious and holy God,
whose servant Hildegard, strong in the faith,
was caught up in the vision of your heavenly courts:
by the breath of your Spirit
open our eyes to glimpse your glory
and our lips to sing your praises with all the angels;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God .

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