

## Morning Prayer for 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020

*You may wish to light a candle while we pray*

<sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:16

### Opening Sentences

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

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

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

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 77:13-20

<sup>13</sup> Your ways, God, are holy.

What god is as great as our God?

<sup>14</sup> You are the God who performs miracles;  
you display your power among the peoples.

<sup>15</sup> With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,  
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.

<sup>16</sup> The waters saw you, God,  
the waters saw you and writhed;  
the very depths were convulsed.

<sup>17</sup> The clouds poured down water,  
the heavens resounded with thunder;  
your arrows flashed back and forth.

<sup>18</sup> Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind,  
your lightning lit up the world;  
the earth trembled and quaked.

<sup>19</sup> Your path led through the sea,  
your way through the mighty waters,  
though your footprints were not seen.

<sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock  
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

**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.**

### **Bible Reading – Matthew 20:1-16**

<sup>20</sup> “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

<sup>3</sup> “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. <sup>4</sup> He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ <sup>5</sup> So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup> About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

<sup>7</sup> “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

<sup>8</sup> “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

<sup>9</sup> “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup> So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup> When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. <sup>12</sup> ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

<sup>13</sup> “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? <sup>14</sup> Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. <sup>15</sup> Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

<sup>16</sup> “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## **Prayers**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you that you have brought us safely  
to the beginning of this day.  
Keep us from falling into sin  
or running into danger;  
order us in all our doings  
and guide us to do always  
what is righteous in your sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;

that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us  
from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Space will be left for personal intercessory prayer – either silent  
or out loud.*

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

We say together the prayer which Jesus taught us;

**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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and 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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