

## MORNING PRAYER DURING HURRICANE DORIAN

The Morning Prayer service has been part of the Anglican Christian tradition from the very beginning and was even the “default” service for Anglican churches (including The Episcopal Church!) for centuries. Adapted from the various communal prayer services of Medieval monasteries and convents, Morning Prayer marks the opening of the day for Anglican Christians. From the earliest centuries of the Christian faith, Christians have given ritual to both the rising of the sun and its setting, often worshipping in the dark, in quiet, for fear of persecution or because Sunday was a work-day in Ancient Rome and Christians could only pray either before or after those working hours.

The beauty of Morning Prayer is that it is a service that can be said by anyone—not just the ordained clergy! Indeed, even much of The Church in this day and time is Morning Prayer-centric, the service led by the Senior Warden on Sunday mornings, only having communion when the local priest can be in attendance (now, don’t start getting any ideas...).

What follows is a straightforward Morning Prayer service, from Rite II (pages 75-102 in the *Book of Common Prayer*). However, I have streamlined the service for our use at this time (and also so we can still maintain our communal character of worship as we wait out the storm). The prayers will reflect our situation on Sunday morning, with the storm likely giving us its own chorus of song.

PRELIMINARIES: The leader of Morning Prayer is known as the “Officiant.” If you are having family worship, it will be helpful to designate one of you as the Officiant and then designate roles to the other members of your family. These roles will be readers (there are three readings, so if you have the people one could each take a reading) and someone to lead the Suffrages (a short form of call-and-response prayer much like our “Prayers of the People” from Sunday mornings). After each reading there is a song/poem from the Bible known as a “canticle.” These have a rich heritage in our church and are said in unison.

I will put rubrics (our fancy Episcopal word for “stage directions”) throughout the service. These will be in *red italics* (hence the word “rubric” which refers to the color red). If you print this in black and white, they will be simply in italics, of course. Parts where everyone in the gathering say things in unison will be in ***bold italics***. When you see this symbol (+) that means it is an appropriate time to cross yourself.

And, finally, the sermon (bet you thought you were getting out of that one this time!). Instead of someone preaching (unless that’s your inclination—you do you), let’s try a little variation on what is known as “Lectio Divina” (Latin for “Divine, or Godly, Reading”). I will put instructions on what to do at the appropriate part of the liturgy.

Alright, everyone. Let’s do this! Know that I’ll be praying along with you. I hope that this will maintain a communal nature for us all during this trying time. Our God is good and part of our work is learning to see God’s goodness even in times like these. I’ll look forward to hearing your stories of praying together during this storm.

Blessings and be safe!

—Fr. Charles+

*Officiant* The Lord is in his holy temple

**People** *Let all the earth keep silence before him.*

*Officiant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, with heads bowed*

**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.**

*Officiant* 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.

*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.  
Alleluia.**

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \***  
**let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**  
**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \***  
**and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, \***  
**and a great King above all gods.**  
**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \***  
**and the heights of the hills are his also.**  
**The sea is his, for he made it, \***  
**and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \***  
**and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**  
**For he is our God,**  
**and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \***  
**Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

THE PSALM (81:1, 10-16)

*We will say this responsively by half-verse (alternatively, feel free to say it in unison)*

1 Sing with joy to God our strength \*  
**and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.**

10 I am the Lord your God,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt and said, \*  
**"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."**

11 And yet my people did not hear my voice, \*  
**and Israel would not obey me.**

12 So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, \*  
**to follow their own devices.**

13 Oh, that my people would listen to me! \*  
**that Israel would walk in my ways!**

14 I should soon subdue their enemies \*  
**and turn my hand against their foes.**

15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, \*  
**and their punishment would last for ever.**

16 But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat \*  
**and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**

*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. Alleluia.**

## THE LESSONS

### *First Lesson (Jeremiah 2:4-13)*

*Reader* A lesson from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves?

They did not say, "Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?"

I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things.

But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination.

The priests did not say, "Where is the Lord?"

Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit.

Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children.

Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing.

Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.

Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*People* **Thanks be to God**

*A period of silence may follow*

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH (CANTICLE 9)

***Surely, it is God who saves me; \****

***I will trust in him and not be afraid.***

***For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \****

***and he will be my Savior.***

***Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \****

***from the springs of salvation.***

***And on that day you shall say, \****

***Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;***

***Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*  
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.  
Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.  
Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*  
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.  
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 Second Lesson (Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16)*

*Reader* A lesson from the sermon to the Hebrews

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*People* **Thanks be to God**

A SONG OF CREATION (CANTICLE 12.1)

***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.***

***Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.***

***Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

***Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
all winds and fire and heat.***

***Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

***Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
drops of dew and flakes of snow.***

***Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

***Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
O shining light and enfolding dark.***

***Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.***

***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 Third Lesson (Luke 14:1, 7-14)*

*Reader* A lesson from the gospel according to Saint Luke

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people

*People* **Thanks be to God**

## THE MEDITATION

*In lieu of a sermon, I want to invite us into a structured meditation on the scriptures, using a variation on a method known as “Lectio Divina.” How it will work is this:*

**First**, pick one of the three lessons (you can do all three if you wish—it might help pass the time if you don’t have power...) and read it in unison. While reading it, each individual should let a word or phrase catch their attention.

**Second**, after reading in unison, sit in silence for about 30 seconds to a minute, keeping the aforementioned word or phrase in mind. After the silence, each person is to share their word or phrase aloud, going in a circle or however the Officiant deems fit.

**Third**, the appointed reader reads the passage again while everyone else listens. While listening, try to place yourself into the story. Where are you? Who are you? After, there is another period of silence for about 30 seconds to a minute.

**Fourth**, keeping the reading in mind, the Officiant will ask one of the following questions (in reference to the appropriate lesson—see below). The group will sit in silence for no less than two minutes and no more than five, thinking about this question.

*For the Jeremiah reading: The Lord reminds the people that they were brought into the promised land, but that land was defiled. Looking at the state of ecological damage (which is helping to foster stronger hurricanes), how do the Lord’s words “Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods. But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit” relate to our relationship with God’s creation?*

*For the Hebrews reading: We read about sympathizing/empathizing with those who suffer. Consider the people in the Caribbean (as well as here in Florida) affected by the storm, or Christians being persecuted around the globe, or other members of the human race who suffer for no other reason than being who they are as people. How can we embody the notion of “letting mutual love continue”, and the promise of God never leaving or forsaking us?*

*For the Luke reading: Do we clamor for positions of honor? Do we want the honor and praise of our fellow humans, or that of God?*

**Finally**, take time to discuss the answers to your questions and response to the passage(s). After no more than 20 minutes, the Officiant should move everyone on to the prayers, by first asking everyone to sit in silence for about 30 seconds.

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

*Officiant* What do you believe?

***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

*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.**

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

*After the above suffrages, one or more of the following prayers are said by the Officiant*

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *A Collect for Peace*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *A Collect for Grace*

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Any other of the prayers found on pages 814-835 of the Prayer Book deemed appropriate may be added*

*At this time, the group is invited to say their own petitions and thanksgivings aloud or silently. Each individual will end their words with "Lord, in your mercy" and the people will say, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

*If you are inclined and have the ability, it is appropriate to sing a hymn at this point.*

*After sufficient time is given, the Officiant says the following prayer*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Prayer of Saint Chrysostom*

**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.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

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

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

*The service is now concluded!*