



**St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Morning Prayer (BCP, 75)  
Proper 23, Year A  
October 11, 2020**

“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” *Psalm 19:14*

**CONFESSION**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

**The Invitatory and Psalter**

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

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

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

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting: **Come let us adore him.**

We the Lord's people, heart and voice uniting, praise him who called us out of sin and darkness into his own light, that he might anoint us a royal priesthood.

This is the Lord's house, home of all his people, school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary; all find a welcome.

This is the Lord's day, day of God's own making, day of creation, day of resurrection, day of the Spirit, sign of heaven's banquet, day for rejoicing.

In the Lord's service bread and wine are offered, that Christ may take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his people, his own life imparting, food everlasting.

**Venite (BCP, 82)**

*Psalm 95:1-7*

**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 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!**

**1 Hallelujah!**

**Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures for ever.**

**2 Who can declare the mighty acts of the LORD \*  
or show forth all his praise?**

**3 Happy are those who act with justice \*  
and always do what is right!**

**4 Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have for your people, \*  
and visit me with your saving help;**

**5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness of your people, \*  
that I may glory with your inheritance.**

**6 We have sinned as our forebears did; \*  
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.**

**19 Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb \*  
and worshiped a molten image;**

**20 And so they exchanged their Glory \*  
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.**

**21 They forgot God their Savior, \*  
who had done great things in Egypt,**

**22 Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, \*  
and fearful things at the Red Sea.**

**23 So he would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, \*  
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.**

**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.**

## **A Reading from Exodus (32:1-14)**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Reader        The Word of the Lord.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 16: *The Song of Zechariah* (BCP, 92)**  
*Luke 1:68-79*

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

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

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he 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.**

**You, my 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 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.**

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

### **A Reading from the letter to the Philippians (4:1-9)**

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things

that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reader       The Word of the Lord.  
People        **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle 18: A Song to the Lamb (BCP, 93)**

*Dignus es*

*Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10,13*

**Splendor and honor and kingly power \*  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, \*  
and by your will they were created and have their being;**

**And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.**

**And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
for ever and for evermore.**

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

**A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (22:1-14)**

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Reader        The Word of the Lord.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

**HYMN    *Shepherd of the souls, refresh and bless, v. 1 & 2*    Hymnal 1982 343**

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless  
thy chosen pilgrim flock  
with manna in the wilderness,  
with water from the rock.

We would not live by bread alone,  
but by thy word of grace,  
in strength of which we travel on  
to our abiding-place.

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED (BCP, 96)**

**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.

**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.**

## **SUFFRAGES A (BCP, 97)**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord.

**R. And grant us your salvation.**

V. Clothe your ministers in righteousness.

**R. Let your people sing with joy.**

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**R. For only in you can we live in safety.**

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

V. Let your way be known upon the earth.

**R. Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Sundays**

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.**

### **A Collect for a Church Convention**

*(source: Gelasian Sacramentary)*

Christ our true and only Light: receive our morning prayers, and illumine the secrets of our hearts with your healing goodness, that no evil desires may possess us who are made new in the light of your heavenly grace. **Amen.**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings are welcome, at this time.*

### **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom (BCP, 102)**

**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 in this world knowledge of your truth,  
and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.****

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **BLESSING**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

### ***Rock of Ages***

**Hymnal 1982 685**

Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood  
from thy wounded side that flowed,  
be of sin the double cure,  
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Should my tears for ever flow,  
should my zeal no languor know,  
all for sin could not atone:  
thou must save, and thou alone;  
in my hand no price I bring,  
simply to thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I rise to worlds unknown  
and behold thee on thy throne,  
Rock of ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.