

Morning Prayer, July 12th

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God's love has been poured into our hearts.

We dwell in him and he in us.

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;

Make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him,

And speak of all his marvellous works.

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty,

Who was and is and is to come!

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis

Genesis 25:19-

34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son:

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,

and two peoples born of you shall be divided;

the one shall be stronger than the other,

the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!"

(Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Psalm 119:105-112

105 Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.

106 I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.

107 I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your word.

108 Accept, O LORD, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.

109 My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.

110 The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.

111 Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.

112 I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans

Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To 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. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us now

People: Thanks be to God

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying:

“Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!”

“Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and

yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

A silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The Apostles' Creed

Celebrant Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed

All

**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.**

Intercessions

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Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, "Lord hear our prayer."

For Delilah Butt, whose birthday is on Friday: Watch over thy child Delilah, O Lord, as her days increase; bless and guide her wherever she may be. Strengthen her when she stands; comfort her when discouraged or sorrowful; raise her up if she fall; and in her heart may your peace which surpasses understanding abide all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, guard and direct your Church in the way of unity, service, and praise.

We pray especially for our bishops, Andrew and Riscylla,

for our clergy Lucia, Susan, Shirley, and Carol,
in the diocesan cycle of prayer for the Mission to Seafarers,

in the Anglican cycle of prayer for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea,

and for St. John's as we seek to know Jesus and make him known.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Give to all nations an awareness of the unity of the human family.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Cleanse our hearts of prejudice and selfishness, and inspire us to hunger and thirst for what is right.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach us to use your creation for your greater praise, that all may share the good things you provide.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Strengthen all who give their energy or skill for the healing of those who are sick in body or in mind.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Set free all who are bound by fear and despair.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant a peaceful end and eternal rest to all who are dying, and your comfort to those who mourn.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless those we name in our hearts [silence] and all who need the grace of your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Thanksgiving Litany

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Let us give thanks to God our Father, always and for everything, saying, "We thank you, Lord."

For the beauty and wonder of creation,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food, for our homes and families and friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think and hearts to love,

We thank you, Lord.

For health, strength, and skill to work, and for leisure to rest and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For those who are brave and courageous, patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all who pursue peace, justice, and truth,

We thank you, Lord.

For the blessings in our lives [*silence*]. For our church community at St. John's and for its ministries. For all those whose gifts to our church make these ministries possible.

We thank you, Lord.

The Collect

Almighty God,

you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
until they find their rest in you.
May we find peace in your service,
and in the world to come, see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All

**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.**

Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace. **Amen.**