

## Morning Prayer, July 26th

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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 29:15-28*

Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?" Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel." Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me." So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed." So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave

his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.)  
When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, “What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?” Laban said, “This is not done in our country— giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.” Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD and call upon his Name; \*  
    make known his deeds among the peoples.
- 2 Sing to him, sing praises to him, \*  
    and speak of all his marvelous works.
- 3 Glory in his holy Name; \*  
    let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.
- 4 Search for the LORD and his strength; \*  
    continually seek his face.
- 5 Remember the marvels he has done, \*  
    his wonders and the judgments of his mouth,
- 6 O offspring of Abraham his servant, \*  
    O children of Jacob his chosen.
- 7 He is the LORD our God; \*  
    his judgments prevail in all the world.
- 8 He has always been mindful of his covenant, \*  
    the promise he made for a thousand generations:

9 The covenant he made with Abraham, \*  
the oath that he swore to Isaac,  
10 Which he established as a statute for Jacob, \*  
an everlasting covenant for Israel,  
11 Saying, "To you will I give the land of Canaan \*  
to be your allotted inheritance."  
45b Hallelujah!

Reader: A reading from the letter to the Romans

*Romans 8:26-39*

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to

condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus 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.**

*Matthew 13:31-  
33,44-52*

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

*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."

We pray for Erica Andruss, Barbara MacPherson, and Linda Demsey, who are celebrating birthdays this week.

Watch over your children Erica, Barbara, and Linda, O Lord, as their days increase;  
bless and guide them wherever they may be.  
Strengthen them when they stand;  
comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful;  
raise them up if they fall;  
and in their hearts,  
may your peace which surpasses understanding  
abide all the days of their life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Father of all, we pray to you for Art Hewer, Jeffrey Bowman, and for all those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will, 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 our Deanery, we pray for St. Mark's, Port Hope, and for their new priest, William Roberts, who begins his ministry there this week.

in the Anglican cycle of prayer for those making decisions about the future of the Lambeth Conference, 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 Sharron Hewer, Patty Kingsley and her family, and all 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**

O God,  
the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is  
holy,  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,  
that with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal,  
that we lose not the things eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit,  
one God, for ever and 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.**