

## Morning Prayer, July 5

*Psalm 95*

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 moulded 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!

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

*Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67*

*The servant said to Laban, "I am Abraham's servant.*

*The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the*

daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

"I came today to the spring, and said, 'O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, "Please give me a little water from your jar to drink," and who will say to me, "Drink, and I will draw for your camels also" —let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son.'

"Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring and drew water. I said to her, 'Please let me drink.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, '**Drink, and I will also water your camels.**' So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, '**The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.**' So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

*And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "**I will.**" So they sent away their sister Rebekah*

*and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes." Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus, the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "**Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?**" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.*

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to us now.

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

Song of Solomon 2: 8-13

The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.  
My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,

gazing in at the windows,  
    looking through the lattice.  
My beloved speaks and says to me:  
"Arise, my love, my fair one,  
    and come away;  
for now the winter is past,  
    the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth;  
    the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
    is heard in our land.  
The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
    and the vines are in blossom;  
    they give forth fragrance.  
Arise, my love, my fair one,  
    and come away."

*Reader:* A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 7:15-25a

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.**

*Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the

wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*Reader* The Gospel of Christ.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sermon**

*A silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

### **An Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God, at the heart of everything,  
Source of all being, continually creating,  
unconditionally loving.**

**We believe in Jesus, his life, his teachings, his example,  
and his eternal presence.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
Inspirer, Comforter, and Companion.**

**We believe in the Church**

**evolving and emerging, trying to return from exile.  
We believe in the kingdom of God,  
all around us and within us.  
that was, and is, and will be forever. Amen.**

*(from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Newmarket)*

**Intercessions for use during the pandemic** *(from the Scottish Episcopal Church-adapted)*

We pray to the Lord,  
to the God who is our shelter and strength,  
always ready to help in times of trouble.

We pray for our communities:

*for the elderly, confined to their homes and separated from family and support; for those who have lost their source of income; for those who fear for their home; for those who have no home; for those who are hungry; for those offering extraordinary, everyday kindnesses; for....*

*Silent Prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, you are in the midst of us:  
help us in our time of trouble.

We pray for the young and those in education:

*For children who have just finished their school year and do not have*

*usual summer activities to look forward to; for those who are anxious about their future or employment; for teachers who worry about their students and are making plans for school in the fall; for children and young people worried about loved ones and friends; for those who are concerned about their own health; for.....*

### *Silent Prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, you are our refuge and strength:

Let us not be afraid, even though the world is changed.

We pray for front-line workers:

*For all medical staff and hospital workers, who go to work knowing the risks they face; for medical researchers, seeking ways to prevent and to cure disease; for social workers, protecting the vulnerable; for care workers, providing contact and support to those who have no other help; for farmers, delivery and shop workers, keeping the nation provisioned; for cleaners, fighting the spread of infection; for .....*

### *Silent Prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, be with us in our time of need:

Help us to do what has been asked of us,

And give us grace to help others do what has been asked of them.



We pray for the world:

*For the leaders of the nations and their governments; for areas most besieged by the pandemic; for places in our world where healthcare and resources are scarce, and the pandemic brings further suffering; for...*

### *Silent Prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, may the nations hear your voice:

and know that you are God,  
supreme among the nations,  
supreme over all the world.

We pray for those who are sick:

*For those affected with coronavirus; for those with other illnesses and conditions which leave them vulnerable; for those with poor mental health; for all who suffer; remembering especially...*

### *Silent Prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, we trust in you, because your love is constant:

Bring us comfort and healing,  
for you are always willing to save.

We pray for the Church:

*For our fellow members in the body of Christ throughout the world; for Andrew and Riscylla our bishops; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer for the Church of Pakistan; in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer for the Toronto East Deanery, for Lucia, Susan, Shirley, Carol, for all clergy and the people in their care; for our hospital chaplains; for all who minister to the sick and the dying; for....*

### *Silent Prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, you are in our midst:

Keep us fearless in proclaiming your Word and works,  
and help us to be lights in the darkness.

We pray for those who have died:

*For those taken suddenly; for those taken unexpectedly; for the families they leave behind; for their friends; for those who have died alone; for .....; and for those who have no one to remember them.*

### *Silent Prayer*

The Lord of hosts is with us.

**The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is our refuge.**

Lord, may those who have waited for you  
and hoped in your word  
know your steadfast love face to face.

We offer up our hopes and fears, our joys and sorrows  
to God, our refuge and strength.

Lord, you hear our prayers,  
as we, who trust in your word,  
acknowledge your presence among us  
and your help in giving us strength and hope and peace,  
for you are the God of our salvation.  
This we ask through your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
Your Son Jesus has taught us  
That what we do for the least of your children  
We do also for him.  
Give us the will to serve others  
As he was servant of all,  
Who gave up his life and died for us,  
But lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer (a paraphrase from the New Zealand Prayer Book)**

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

*All*

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be,**

Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo  
through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by the peoples of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another,  
forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test,  
strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power  
that is love,  
now and forever. Amen.

## Dismissal

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

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

*Officiant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all  
evermore. **Amen.**