***Diocesan Conference 2020 - Morning Prayer***

O Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

We sing to you, O Lord, and bless your name,

**And tell of your salvation from day to day.**

**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.**

Worship the Lord.

**All praise to his name.**

***Canticle - A Song of Unity (Psalm 133)***

*Refrai*n**Mercy and truth are met together,**

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

*1* Behold how good and pleasant it is:

to dwell together in unity.

*2* It is like the precious oil upon the head:

running down upon the beard,

*3* Even on Aaron’s beard:

running down upon the collar of his clothing.

*4* It is like the dew of Hermon:

running down upon the hills of Zion.

*5* For there the Lord has promised his blessing:

even life for evermore.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son:**

**And to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now**

**and shall be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain:* **Mercy and truth are met together,**

**righteousness and peace have kissed each other**

***THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD***

***Psalmody Psalm 42***

*1* As the deer longs for the water brooks:

so longs my soul for you, O God.

*2* My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God:

when shall I come before the presence of God?

*3* My tears have been my bread day and night:

while all day long they say to me, ‘Where is now your God?’

*4* Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul:

how I went with the multitude and led the procession to the house of God,

*5* With the voice of praise and thanksgiving:

among those who kept holy day.

*6* Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul:

and why are you so disquieted within me?

*7* O put your trust in God:

for I will yet give him thanks, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

*8* My soul is heavy within me:

therefore, I will remember you from the land of Jordan,

and from Hermon and the hill of Mizar.

*9* Deep calls to deep in the thunder of your waterfalls:

all your breakers and waves have gone over me.

*10* The Lord will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime:

through the night his song will be with me,

a prayer to the God of my life.

*11* I say to God my rock, ‘Why have you for/gotten me:

and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?’

*12* As they crush my bones, my enemies mock me:

while all day long they say to me, ‘Where is now your God?’

*13* Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul:

and why are you so disquieted within me?

*14* O put your trust in God:

for I will yet give him thanks,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son:**

**And to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now**

**and shall be forever. Amen.**

***The New Testament reading***

A reading from the book of Acts 18: 22 – 19:7

When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalemand greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. After spending some time there, he departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believer encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers,for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiahis Jesus.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples.He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied altogether there were about twelve of them.

Here ends the New Testament reading.

*Silence.*

***The Gospel Canticle:*** *Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel*

*Refrain* **In your tender compassion, O God,**

**the dawn from on high shall break upon u**s.

*1* Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel:

for he has come to his people and set them free.

*2* The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

born of the house of his servant David.

*3* Through his holy prophets God promised of old

to save us from our enemies:

from the hands of all who hate us.

*4* To show mercy to our forebears:

and to remember his holy covenant.

*5* This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

*6* Free to worship him without fear:

holy and righteous before him all the days of our life.

*7* And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

*8* To give his people knowledge of salvation:

by the forgiveness of their sins.

*9* In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

*10* 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 shall be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain* **In your tender compassion, O God,**

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

***Prayers***

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Father.

Merciful Father, we pray for ourselves and all Christians, that we may be a royal priesthood,

a holy people, to the praise of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for Juneour bishop and all who minister in the Diocese,

that they may remain faithful to their calling and rightly proclaim the word of truth.

We pray for this Diocesan conference, for all that will be discussed and decided this day.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for children and young people and for all who are new in the Faith.

May we strive to reach out and encourage all who are seeking to know you more clearly.

Direct and guide them in the way that leads to you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for Elizabeth our Queen, and for those who bear

the responsibility of government in this and every nation,

that your people may rejoice in your gifts of true justice and peace.

We pray that all in authority may seek the common good for all people.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who struggled and are still suffering from the effects of CoVid19,

for those who have suffered illness, bereavement or loneliness,

for those who have lost jobs, income or livelihood,

for those children whose education has been affected in many ways.

In a moment of silence, we pray for those known to us how have suffered in these and any other way because of the pandemic. We pray that you will deliver them and keep them in your love

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We pray for the departed, those who have died this week, our loved ones departed

and all whose anniversary occurs at this time. We pray for all who have lost their lives because of CoVid19. We commend them to your eternal love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

In a moment of silence, we pray that God may strengthen our faith, our love and our service.

We pray that our prayers may be accepted in Christ, in whose name we gather today. **Amen**

***Lord’s Prayer***

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly 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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

***Collect***

*Collect for Peace*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord,

to know you is eternal life,

to serve you is perfect freedom:

defend us in all assaults of our enemies,

that we, surely trusting in your protection,

may not fear the power of any adversaries;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Collect for Grace*

O Lord and heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God,

we thank you for bringing us safely

to the beginning of this new day:

defend us by your mighty power

that we may be kept free from all sin

and safe from every danger;

and enable us in everything

to do only what is right in your eyes;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Conclusion**

The Lord bless us and protect us from evil

and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**