

Morning Prayer
Sunday, 24th September 2023
The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity



All O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You founded the earth in the beginning
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
and in these last days you have spoken to us
in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
your Spirit ever renew our lives
and your praises ever be on our lips.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Opening hymn

Light of the minds that know him

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Light of the minds that know him,
may Christ be light to mine!
My sun in risen splendour,
my light of truth divine;
my guide in doubt and darkness,
my true and living way,
my clear light ever shining,
my dawn of heaven's day.
- 2 Life of the souls that love him,
may Christ be ours indeed!
The living bread from heaven
on whom our spirits feed;
who died for love of sinners
to bear our guilty load,
and make of life's brief journey
a new Emmaus road.
- 3 Strength of the wills that serve him,
may Christ be strength to me,
who stilled the storm and tempest,
who calmed the tossing sea;
his Spirit's power to move me,
his will to master mine,
his cross to carry daily
and conquer in his sign.

- 4 May it be ours to know him
that we may truly love,
and loving, fully serve him
as serve the saints above;
till in that home of glory
with fadeless splendour bright,
we serve in perfect freedom
our strength, our life, our light.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from a prayer of Saint Augustine
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Opening prayer

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading Psalm 105:37-45

- 37 Then he brought them out with silver and gold;
there was not one among their tribes that stumbled.
38 Egypt was glad at their departing,
for a dread of them had fallen upon them.
39 He spread out a cloud for a covering
and a fire to light up the night.
40 They asked and he brought them quails;
he satisfied them with the bread of heaven.
41 He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out
and ran in the dry places like a river.
42 For he remembered his holy word
and Abraham, his servant.
43 So he brought forth his people with joy,
his chosen ones with singing.
44 He gave them the lands of the nations
and they took possession of the fruit of their toil,
45 That they might keep his statutes
and faithfully observe his laws.
Alleluia.

All 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.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer.

²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**All Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.

2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.

3 Riches and honour come from you
and you rule over all.

4 In your hand are power and might;
yours it is to give power and strength to all.

5 And now we give you thanks, our God,
and praise your glorious name.

6 For all things come from you,
and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b

**All 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.**

**All Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

Second Hymn

**Through all the changing scenes of life
*sung by St Martin's Voices***

- 1 Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.
- 2 O magnify the Lord with me,
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.
- 3 The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliverance he affords to all
who on his succour trust.
- 4 O make but trial of his love:
experience will decide
how blest are they, and only they,
who in his truth confide.
- 5 Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
make you his service your delight,
your wants shall be his care.
- 6 To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore,
be glory, as it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Nahum Tate (or Teate) (1652-1715) and Nicholas Brady (1659-1726) (Public Domain)

New Testament Reading Matthew 20:1-16

20For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.

2After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. **3**When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; **4**and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went.

5When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. **6**And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" **7**They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard."

8When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first."

9When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. **10**Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. **11**And

when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.”

¹³But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.

¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?”¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’

All Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead
And Christ shall give you light.

All You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.
Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

All Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.
And Christ shall give you light.

All When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.
Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.

from Colossians 3

Refrain:

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He 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 that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
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 in his sight
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 all 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.

Luke 1.68-79

All 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.

Refrain:

All You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.

Prayers of *Intercessions*

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

And at the end.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

The Collect

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,**

and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Final Hymn

We have a gospel to proclaim
sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.
- 2 Tell of his birth at Bethlehem
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.
- 3 Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the Cross;
for all he loved his life he gave.
- 4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.
- 5 Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.
- 6 Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

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The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.



Diocese in Europe