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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

**Service for the Nineth Sunday After Pentecost** – August 7, 2022

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. *Matthew 24.42, 44*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening All-Ages Song: *God Has Got A Garden*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

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

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!**

The Lord is our light and our life: **O come, let us worship.**

Venite*Psalm 95.1–7*

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!**

The Lord is our light and our life: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Isaiah 1:1, 10–20.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Hear the word of the Lord,

you rulers of Sodom!

Listen to the teaching of our God,

you people of Gomorrah!

What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?

says the Lord;

I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams

and the fat of fed beasts;

I do not delight in the blood of bulls,

or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me,

who asked this from your hand?

Trample my courts no more;

bringing offerings is futile;

incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—

I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

Your new moons and your appointed festivals

my soul hates;

they have become a burden to me,

I am weary of bearing them.

When you stretch out your hands,

I will hide my eyes from you;

even though you make many prayers,

I will not listen;

your hands are full of blood.

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;

remove the evil of your doings

from before my eyes;

cease to do evil,

learn to do good;

seek justice,

rescue the oppressed,

defend the orphan,

plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out,

says the Lord:

though your sins are like scarlet,

they shall be like snow;

though they are red like crimson,

they shall become like wool.

If you are willing and obedient,

you shall eat the good of the land;

but if you refuse and rebel,

you shall be devoured by the sword;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 50

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; \*

**he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.**

Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*

**God reveals himself in glory.**

Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*

**before him there is a consuming flame,**

**and round about him a raging storm.**

He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*

**to witness the judgement of his people.**

“Gather before me my loyal followers, \*

**those who have made a covenant with me**

**and sealed it with sacrifice.”**

Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*

**for God himself is judge.**

Hear, O my people, and I will speak:

“O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \*

**for I am God, your God.**

I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \*

**your offerings are always before me.**

I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, \*

**nor he-goats out of your pens;**

For the beasts of the forest are mine, \*

**the herds in their thousands upon the hills.**

I know every bird in the sky, \*

**and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.**

If I were hungry, I would not tell you, \*

**for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, \*

**or drink the blood of goats?**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*

**and make good your vows to the Most High.**

Call upon me in the day of trouble; \*

**I will deliver you, and you shall honour me.”**

But to the wicked God says: \*

**“Why do you recite my statutes, and take my covenant upon your lips;**

Since you refuse discipline, \*

**and toss my words behind your back?**

When you see a thief, you make him your friend, \*

**and you cast in your lot with adulterers.**

You have loosed your lips for evil, \*

**and harnessed your tongue to a lie.**

You are always speaking evil of your brother \*

**and slandering your own mother’s son.**

These things you have done, and I kept still, \*

**and you thought that I am like you.”**

Consider this well, you who forget God, \*

**lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.**

Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me; \*

**but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God.”**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 11:1–16.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain’s. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and “he was not found, because God had taken him.” For it was attested before he was taken away that “he had pleased God.” And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *Wait For The Lord* (CP# 94)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (12:32–40)

**Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Reflection Questions

The Apostles’ Creed

Let us confess the faith, as we say,

**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**

*In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.*

[**A Moment of Silence is kept.**]

*For all people in their daily life and work;*

***For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.***

*For this community, our country, and the world;*

***For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.***

*We pray for the people of Ukraine, Yemen, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia, and all who are facing the horrors of war.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,*

*that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,*

*for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.*

*Grant them your salvation.* ***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the just and proper use of your creation;*

***For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.***

*For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;*

***For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.***

*For the peace and unity of the Church of God;*

***For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.***

*For David, our archbishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;*

***For all who serve God in his Church.***

*We lift up in prayer all of the Bishops of the Anglican Church from around the world who have gathered for the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury England:*

*Almighty Father, fill your servants with the grace and power which you gave to your apostles, that they may lead those committed to their charge in proclaiming the gospel of salvation. Through them increase your Church, renew its ministry, and unite its members in a holy fellowship of truth and love.*

*Enable them as true shepherds to feed and govern your flock; make them wise as teachers, and steadfast as guardians of its faith and sacraments. Guide and direct them in presiding at the worship of your people. Give them humility, that they may use their authority to heal, not to hurt; to build up, not to destroy. Defend them from all evil, that, as rulers over your household and ambassadors for Christ, they may stand before you blameless, and finally, with all your servants, enter your eternal joy.*

*Let us pray to the Lord.* ***Lord, have mercy.***

*For our own needs and those of others.*

[***Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.* *Take a moment to offer up to the Lord your own petitions and prayers, for yourself or others, either silently or aloud.***] *Hear us, Lord;* ***For your mercy is great.***

*We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.*

[***Take a moment to offer your own thanksgivings to the Lord.***]

*We will exalt you, O God our king;* ***And praise your name for ever and ever.***

*We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.*

[***Add your own prayers, either silently or aloud.***]

*Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;* ***Who put their trust in you.***

*We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.*

*Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;*

***in your compassion, forgive us our sins,***

***known and unknown,***

***things done and left undone;***

***and so uphold us by your Spirit***

***that we may live and serve you in newness of life,***

***to the honour and glory of your name;***

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

*Gracious God,*

*you have heard the prayers of your faithful people;*

*you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking.*

*Grant our requests as may be best for us.*

*This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church.*

*Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit*

*in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* ***Amen****.*

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *How Firm A Foundation* (CP #527)

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**