

MORNING PRAYER

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

September 2020

Opening Acclamation

God within me, God within you,
God beyond and surrounding us all,
**May all we say and think and do
Be in harmony with Creation;
May we bless the Maker of all beauty.**

Hymn of Praise

We face the East and bless the beginning;
In the light of dawn we see all things anew.
We offer thanks and bow in peace.

We face the South and bless the work;
In the noonday glare we see what is growing.
We offer thanks and bow in peace.

We face the West and bless the completion
Of another day, another task, another life;
We greet all our relations.
We offer thanks and bow in peace.

We face the North and bless the Night;
In the gentle light of moon and stars,
We tell the stories of the past and greet the dreamtime.
We offer thanks and bow in peace.

Collect of the Day

We begin this day with thanks, Holy One, for the healing rest of the night now past. Today, grant us the resolve and the strength to love one another, and to love your Creation. When we turn to our rest, grant us grateful hearts for another day lived in this astonishing world. We pray because of Jesus, who shows us the way. **Amen.**

Reading

Meditation

Prayers

God of grace, we offer thanks for life; for those we love and for those who love us; for opportunities to learn and grow; for moments of peace; for occasions of joy; for this very day.

Add your own thanksgivings

God of mercy, we pray for those who need your strength. We pray for those who are ill; for those who are preparing to give birth; for those who are dying; for those who have a long road of treatment and recovery; for those who are addicted; for those who are working to improve their health.

God of justice, we pray for our nation, our state, our county, and our cities. Grant wisdom and insight to our leaders. Grant them a vision of cooperative effort for the common good. As we approach Election Day, help us to keep in mind the values of your kingdom.

God of the forsaken, we pray for people who are unable to work. We pray for those deemed essential workers. We pray for people who are unable to pay their rent and for those making daily impossible decisions about their inadequate resources.

God of body, mind, and spirit, we pray for wholeness in this fractured time. We pray for teachers, parents, and students who are doing their best to continue. We pray that you will continue to bind us together in new ways.

God of resurrection, we pray for those who have died, and for those who have lost so much. Help us to listen to the enlivening voice of your Spirit, and lean into your future. We pray because of Jesus, who shows us the way. Amen.

Benediction

The way is long, and fraught with challenge;
God be near you.

The work is hard, and takes a long time;
God grant you strength.

The days seem short, and time rushes by like a river;
God grant you the gift of the present moment.

God bless you; God keep you; God strengthen and sustain you,
Bring you peace, and grant you joy. **Amen.**