

Home Prayers

August 2, 2020 • Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679)

*If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text.
If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently.*

The Preparation

O God, you command a light to shine out of darkness. Shine in our hearts that we may be as lights in the world reflecting the glory of Jesus in our lives.

God is light and in him is no darkness.

A hymn may be sung. This one can go to the tune Wareham.

1. The church of Christ in every age
beset by change but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.
3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
4. For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.
5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord:
To care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

The collect of the day may be said. This is a collect for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost:

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
with the bread of his life
and the word of his kingdom.
Renew your people with your heavenly grace,
and in all our weakness
sustain us by your true and living bread,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Reading

The Gospel of the day may be read. Matthew 14:13-21 is appointed for Pentecost 9:

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.

Apostles' Creed

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

Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed.

Loving and merciful God, you are steadfast in your love for your people, and you answer us when we call on you: hear us now as we bring our prayers for your world. We pray for all people whose lives are threatened by war, terrorism or disaster, by famine or disease; for leaders of nations, those who govern and those who dispense justice. Long ago you fed a multitude: take our small gifts and use them today to feed those who hunger for justice and peace.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving and merciful God, through your Son Jesus Christ you bless us and name us anew, making us children of your promise: hear us now as we bring our prayers for your church. We pray for all who are fed at your table; for pastors and teachers and all who provide spiritual nourishment to your people. Long ago you fed a multitude: take our small gifts and use them today to feed those who hunger to hear your gospel.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving and merciful God, your Son Jesus Christ gathered around him a group of disciples and friends: hear us now as we bring our prayers for those close and dear to us. We pray for all who live in our communities and those whose daily work enriches our common life; for the people of this diocese, for our families, our friends, and for ourselves. Long ago you fed a multitude: take our small gifts and use them today to feed those who hunger for acceptance and love.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving and merciful God, your Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and fed the hungry: hear us now as we bring our prayers for those in need. We pray for all who have no work, no home, no hope for the future; for the sad and the lonely, for the sick and all who care for them. Long ago you fed a multitude: take our small gifts and use them today to feed those who hunger for comfort and hope.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Loving and merciful God, those who see your face shall be satisfied: hear us now as we remember those who have passed through death to eternal life. We remember the faithful people of our communities and all whom we have loved. Help us to follow in the steps of all who have offered their lives to you, that our small gifts may be turned to abundance in your hands and used to feed your hungry people. Bring us from death to life, that with all your saints, we may come to see you face to face and rest in your eternal presence.

Loving God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions can be offered.

This concluding prayer can then be said:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Conclusion

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