The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa
Morning Prayer
Sunday, September 6, 2020  10:00am

This morning’s worship is offered by members of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa.

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN  48  O day of radiant gladness

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe
OPENING SENTENCE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  

CONFESSION OF SIN

Officiant  Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept. Officiant and People together

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 neighbors 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.

The Priest alone stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

Officiant  Lord, open our lips.

People  And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

VENITE

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 molded 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!

PSALM: Psalm 63

1 God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
   my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
   that I might behold your power and your glory.
3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
   my lips shall give you praise.
4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
   and lift up my hands in your Name.
5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
   and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
   and meditate on you in the night watches.
7 For you have been my helper, *
   and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
8 My soul clings to you; *
   your right hand holds me fast.
9 May those who seek my life to destroy it *
   go down into the depths of the earth;
10 Let them fall upon the edge of the sword, *
   and let them be food for jackals.
11 But the king will rejoice in God; all those who swear by him will be glad; *
   for the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

Psalm 98

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
   for he has done marvelous things.
2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
   has he won for himself the victory.
3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
   his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
   and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *  
   lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *  
   with the harp and the voice of song.
7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *  
   shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *  
   the lands and those who dwell therein.
9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *  
   and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *  
   and the peoples with equity.

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.

The Lessons

First Reading: Job 25:1-6,27:1-6

Then Bildad the Shuhite answered: “Dominion and fear are with God; he makes peace in his high heaven. Is there any number to his armies? Upon whom does his light not arise? How then can a mortal be righteous before God? How can one born of woman be pure? If even the moon is not bright and the stars are not pure in his sight, how much less a mortal, who is a maggot, and a human being, who is a worm!”

Job again took up his discourse and said: “As God lives, who has taken away my right, and the Almighty, who has made my soul bitter, as long as my breath is in me and the spirit of God is in my nostrils, my lips will not speak falsehood, and my tongue will not utter deceit. Far be it from me to say that you are right; until I die I will not put away my integrity from me. I hold fast my righteousness, and will not let it go; my heart does not reproach me for any of my days.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *  
   he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *  
   born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old, *  
   that he would save us from our enemies,  
   from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *  
   and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *  
   to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
  holy and righteous in his sight
  all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
  for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
  by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
  the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
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 will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading: Rev. 14:1-7,13

Then I looked, and there was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion! And with him were one hundred forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the one hundred forty-four thousand who have been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins; these follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They have been redeemed from humankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found; they are blameless.

Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation and tribe and language and people. He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.”

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

You are God Te Deum laudamus
You are God: we praise you;
  You are the Lord; we acclaim you;
  You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
  Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:
  Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
  heaven and earth are full of your glory.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;
   Father, of majesty unbounded,
       your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
       and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
When you became man to set us free
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.
You overcame the sting of death
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come and be our judge.
   Come then, Lord, and help your people,
       bought with the price of your own blood,
       and bring us with your saints
   to glory everlasting.

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Word of the Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

Rev. Thomas Early

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

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.

THE PRAYERS
The People stand or kneel
Priest The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Priest Let us 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SUFFRAGE B
V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you;
R. We praise your Name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

COLLECT OF THE DAY
Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR SUNDAY
O god, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your son our lord: give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MISSION
Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.
HYMN 628  Help us, O Lord, to learn

1 Help us, O Lord, to learn the truths your word imparts; to
2 Help us, O Lord, to live the faith which we proclaim, that
3 Help us, O Lord, to teach the beauty of your ways, that

study, that your laws may be inscribed upon our hearts.

Title: Help us, O Lord, to learn Meter: SM Words: William Watkins Reid, Jr. (b. 1923), alt. Music: St. Ethelwald, William Henry Monk (1823-1889) Copyright:Words: Copyright © 1959 by the Hymn Society. (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.) All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Permission to reprint and podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-709426.

At this time people may add their own prayers and thanksgivings.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
DISMISSAL

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14

Learn more about St. Alban’s in Spirit Lake and support their mission and ministry by visiting their website at: https://www.stalbansepicopalchurch.org

We invite you to join us online next week for worship offered by Trinity Church in Emmetsburg at 10:00am.