

Wednesday Morning

7th August 2019

1 Rejoice always; pray without ceasing;
in everything give thanks;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5.16–18

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

The Opening Canticle, A Song of God's Grace

Blessed are you,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
for you have blessed us in Christ Jesus
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

You chose us to be yours in Christ
before the foundation of the world:
that we should be holy and blameless before you.

In love you destined us to be your children,
through Jesus Christ:
according to the purpose of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace:
which you freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1.3–6

The Opening Prayer

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

Silence may be 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. **Amen.**

We consecrate this day to your service, O Lord; may all our thoughts, words, and actions be well-pleasing to you and serve the good of our brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

John 11:38-54

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

38 Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out,

his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. ⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, 'What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.' ⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.' ⁵¹He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, ⁵²and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. ⁵³So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

54 Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews, but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness; and he remained there with the disciples.

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

The Canticle, A Song of the Word of the Lord

Seek the Lord while he may be found:
call upon him while he is near;
Let the wicked abandon their ways:
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
Return to the Lord,
who will have mercy:
to our God, who will richly pardon.
'For my thoughts are not your thoughts:
neither are your ways my ways', says the Lord.
'For as the heavens are higher than the earth:
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
'As the rain and the snow come down from above:
and return not again but water the earth,
'Bringing forth life and giving growth:
seed for sowing and bread to eat,
'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth:
it will not return to me fruitless,
'But it will accomplish that which I purpose:
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

Isaiah 55.6–11

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy.

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, whose beloved Son for our sake willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross: give us courage and patience to take up our cross daily and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

The Morning Collect

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live this day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant us to live in such harmony with one another in accord with Christ Jesus, that we may with one voice glorify our God and Father. **Amen.**

Romans 15.5–6

Great is your faithfulness - TiS 154

Great is your faithfulness, O God my Father;
In you no shadow of turning we see;
You never fail and your love is unchanging:
As you have been, you forever wilt be.

Chorus

Great is your faithfulness!

Great is your faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies we see

All we have needed your hand has provided

Great is your faithfulness, Lord God to me!

Chorus

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above;
Join with all nature in unspoken witness,
To your great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that's enduring,
Your living presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow
These are the blessings your love will provide.

Chorus

Thomas O Chisholm 1866-1960

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