

## Morning Prayer

Friday, September 18



### Opening Sentence

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. *John 4:23*

### Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.*

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

### Versicle and Response

Lord, open our lips.

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. Alleluia.

The Earth is the Lord's for he made it:

Come let us adore him.

### Jubilate

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness

and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God;

he himself has made us, and we are his;

we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;

go into his courts with praise;

give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting;  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

### **Antiphon**

The Earth is the Lord's for he made it:  
Come let us adore him.

### **Psalm 69:1-23; 31-38 *Salvum me fac***

<sup>1</sup> Save me, O God, \*  
for the waters have risen up to my neck.  
<sup>2</sup> I am sinking in deep mire, \*  
and there is no firm ground for my feet.  
<sup>3</sup> I have come into deep waters, \*  
and the torrent washes over me.  
<sup>4</sup> I have grown weary with my crying;  
my throat is inflamed; \*  
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.  
<sup>5</sup> Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs  
of my head;  
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty. \*  
Must I then give back what I never stole?  
<sup>6</sup> O God, you know my foolishness, \*  
and my faults are not hidden from you.  
<sup>7</sup> Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,  
Lord GOD of hosts; \*  
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,  
O God of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup> Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, \*  
and shame has covered my face.  
<sup>9</sup> I have become a stranger to my own kindred, \*  
an alien to my mother's children.  
<sup>10</sup> Zeal for your house has eaten me up; \*  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.  
<sup>11</sup> I humbled myself with fasting, \*  
but that was turned to my reproach.  
<sup>12</sup> I put on sack-cloth also, \*  
and became a byword among them.  
<sup>13</sup> Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, \*  
and the drunkards make songs about me.  
<sup>14</sup> But as for me, this is my prayer to you, \*  
at the time you have set, O Lord:  
<sup>15</sup> "In your great mercy, O God, \*  
answer me with your unfailing help.  
<sup>16</sup> Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me  
and out of the deep waters.  
<sup>17</sup> Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.

18 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me."  
19 "Hide not your face from your servant; \*  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.  
20 Draw near to me and redeem me; \*  
because of my enemies deliver me.  
21 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; \*  
my adversaries are all in your sight."  
22 Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed; \*  
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,  
for comforters, but I could find no one.  
23 They gave me gall to eat, \*  
and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

31 As for me, I am afflicted and in pain; \*  
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.  
32 I will praise the Name of God in song; \*  
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.  
33 This will please the Lord more than an offering of oxen, \*  
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.  
34 The afflicted shall see and be glad; \*  
you who seek God, your heart shall live.  
35 For the Lord listens to the needy, \*  
and his prisoners he does not despise.  
36 Let the heavens and the earth praise him, \*  
the seas and all that moves in them;  
37 For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; \*  
they shall live there and have it in possession.  
38 The children of his servants will inherit it, \*  
and those who love his Name will dwell therein.

### **Gloria Patri**

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. *Amen.*

### **The Old Testament Lesson**

*Judith 4:1-15*

<sup>1</sup>When the Israelites living in Judea heard of everything that Holofernes, the general of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of the Assyrians, had done to the nations, and how he had plundered and destroyed all their temples,<sup>2</sup>they were therefore greatly terrified at his approach; they were alarmed both for Jerusalem and for the temple of the Lord their God.<sup>3</sup>For they had only recently returned from exile, and all the people of Judea had just now gathered together, and the sacred vessels and the altar and the temple had been consecrated after their profanation.<sup>4</sup>So they sent word to every district of Samaria, and to Kona, Beth-horon, Belmain, and Jericho, and to Choba and Aesora, and the valley of Salem.<sup>5</sup>They immediately seized all the high hilltops and fortified the villages on them and stored up food in preparation for war since their fields had recently been harvested.

<sup>6</sup>The high priest, Joakim, who was in Jerusalem at the time, wrote to the people of Bethulia and Betomesthaim, which faces Esdraelon opposite the plain near Dothan,<sup>7</sup>ordering them to seize the mountain passes, since by them Judea could be invaded; and it would be easy to stop any who tried to enter, for the approach was narrow, wide enough for only two at a time to pass.

<sup>8</sup>So the Israelites did as they had been ordered by the high priest Joakim and the senate of the whole people of Israel, in session at Jerusalem.<sup>9</sup>And every man of Israel cried out to God with great fervor, and they humbled themselves with much fasting.<sup>10</sup>They and their wives and their children and their cattle and every resident alien and hired laborer and purchased slave they all put sackcloth around their waists.<sup>11</sup>And all the Israelite men, women, and children living at Jerusalem prostrated themselves before the temple and put ashes on their heads and spread out their sackcloth before the Lord.<sup>12</sup>They even draped the altar with sackcloth and cried out in unison, praying fervently to the God of Israel not to allow their infants to be carried off and their wives to be taken as booty, and the towns they had inherited to be destroyed, and the sanctuary to be profaned and desecrated to the malicious joy of the Gentiles.

<sup>13</sup>The Lord heard their prayers and had regard for their distress; for the people fasted for many days throughout Judea and in Jerusalem before the sanctuary of the Lord Almighty.<sup>14</sup>The high priest Joakim and all the priests who stood before the Lord and ministered to the Lord, with sackcloth around their loins, offered the daily burnt-offerings, the votive offerings, and freewill-offerings of the people.<sup>15</sup>With ashes on their turbans, they cried out to the Lord with all their might to look with favor on the whole house of Israel. The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Canticle 10 The Second Song of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 55:6-11*

*Quaerite Dominum*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \*  
call upon him when he draws near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways \*  
and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord,  
and he will have compassion, \*

and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \*  
nor 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.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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.*

## **The New Testament Lesson**

*Acts 17:1-15*

<sup>1</sup>After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.<sup>2</sup>And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures,<sup>3</sup>explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.'<sup>4</sup>Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women.<sup>5</sup>But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market-places they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house.<sup>6</sup>When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, 'These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also,<sup>7</sup>and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.'<sup>8</sup>The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this,<sup>9</sup>and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

<sup>10</sup>That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Beroea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue.<sup>11</sup>These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so.<sup>12</sup>Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing.<sup>13</sup>But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Beroea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds.<sup>14</sup>Then the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind.<sup>15</sup>Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Canticle 18**

### **A Song to the Lamb**

*Dignus es*

*Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and kingly power \*  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, \*  
and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
forever and forevermore.

## **The Gospel**

*John 12:36-43*

<sup>36</sup>While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.' After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.<sup>37</sup>Although he had performed so many signs in their presence, they did not believe in him.<sup>38</sup>This was to fulfil the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah:

'Lord, who has believed our message,  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?'

<sup>39</sup>And so they could not believe, because Isaiah also said,

<sup>40</sup> 'He has blinded their eyes  
and hardened their heart,  
so that they might not look with their eyes,  
and understand with their heart and turn  
and I would heal them.'

<sup>41</sup>Isaiah said this because he saw his glory and spoke about him.<sup>42</sup>Nevertheless many, even of the authorities, believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue;<sup>43</sup>for they loved human glory more than the glory that comes from God.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **The Apostle's 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.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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 forever. *Amen.*

### **Suffrages**

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

### **A Collect for Fridays**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

### **For Mission**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

### **Collect of Commemoration**

Almighty God who exalted your humble Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords: Kindle within the hearts of the leaders of this world a yearning for peace with justice as you did within your servant Dag Hammarskjöld and, following his good example, ever guide our feet into the way of peace; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. *Amen.*

### **Trinity Cycle of Prayer**

*Russell Bennett*

Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

### **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.*

## **Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20, 21*

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## **The Commemoration**

Dag Hjalmar Agne Carl Hammarskjöld (pronounced HAM-mar-shold) was born in 1905, the son of the Prime Minister of Sweden. He studied law and economics, and taught economics at the University of Stockholm. He became president of the board of the Bank of Sweden, then Minister of State, then head of the Swedish delegation to the United Nations, and then Secretary General of the United Nations. In 1960 the Belgian Congo (now Zaire) became independent, and civil war promptly broke out. Hammarskjöld went in to negotiate a cease-fire and was killed in a plane crash in Zambia on 18 September 1961.

For years, he had kept a private journal, writing down his thoughts on the Lordship of Christ and its meaning for his life. After his death, the journal was published under the title *Markings*. Two extracts follow.

God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.

He who has surrendered himself to it knows that the Way ends on The Cross--even when it is leading through the jubilation of Gennesaret or the triumphal entry into Jerusalem.