

Service for Noonday July 20, 2021

We will use the service for noonday found on page 103 in the book of Common Prayer.

Before we begin let us pause in silence

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Alleluia

Let us read Psalm 126 found on page 105, together in unison (read from prayer book)

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.

A Reading from *Mark 4:21-34*

He said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away." He also said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples. **The Word of the Lord**

Comments from Forward Day by Day

Inspired by this parable, my friend got a tattoo of a mustard flower on her foot. She explained to me that it's her favorite image of the kingdom of God. Jesus' audience would have been familiar with the promise in Ezekiel 17:22-24, that a branch from a cedar tree would be planted on the mountain height of Israel: this grand and noble tree would bear fruit, and its branches provide shade and shelter for every kind of bird. This is what the people expect Jesus to talk about. But instead, he uses the image of the mustard seed, which grows into a big, ugly bush, and is more comparable to a weed than a strong and beautiful tree. Moreover, the word Jesus uses for "birds" is not the word for majestic creatures of the air, but "fowl," the lowly and undesirable birds. Why is God's kingdom likened to a pervasive weed? Perhaps it grows like the mustard seed, tenaciously overtaking its surroundings, providing refuge for the unwanted, the misfits, and the outcasts.

MOVING FORWARD: Do you imagine the kingdom of God as a grand noble tree or the mustard bush? Think about how God often delivers the unexpected.

The Prayers

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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, and the power,

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord, hear our prayer;
And let our cry come to you.
Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family, St. Paul's. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord we ask for your blessing and guidance especially for our priest, Mother Suzanne.

We pray for healing for all who are affected by the Corona Virus, and safety for our health care workers and first responders.

Heavenly Father, Giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, those known and unknown to us, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their distress and have sure knowledge of your loving care through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Pray for protection for people around the world who are vulnerable and being persecuted; pray for all law enforcement officers and firefighters. Pray for our country, our state, for our city of Altus; pray for our President and other leaders that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

We pray for The Episcopal Church, for our Presiding Bishop Michael, for our own Bishop Poulson.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart (and especially the hearts of the people of this land), that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please add your own prayers either silently or aloud.

PAUSE

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Ending

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God