

A Service of Morning Prayer for Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, 1626 - Commemoration



WELCOME

GATHERING

Leader: +In the name of God, the Creator, the Christ, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Everlasting God,

All: **you guided your servant Lancelot Andrewes in preaching and in prayer to bring forth ancient treasures for the renewing of the English Church. Grant us to share his conformity to Christ, that our hearts may love you, our minds may serve you and our lips may proclaim the greatness 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.**

Leader: Wonderous God, you have brought us to this thin place where heaven and earth embrace.
Here we bask in your peace and grace

All: **and open our hearts to your holy Word.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sirach 51:13-22

A reading from the book of Sirach:

While I was still young, before I went on my travels, I sought wisdom openly in my prayer. Before the temple I asked for her, and I will search for her until the end. From the first blossom to the ripening grape my heart delighted in her; my foot walked on the straight path; from my youth I followed her steps. I inclined my ear a little and received her, and I found for myself much instruction. I made progress in her; to him who gives wisdom I will give glory.

For I resolved to live according to wisdom, and I was zealous for the good, and I shall never be disappointed. My soul grappled with wisdom, and in my conduct I was strict; I spread out my hands to the heavens, and lamented my ignorance of her. I directed my soul to her, and in purity I found her.

With her I gained understanding from the first; therefore I will never be forsaken. My heart was stirred to seek her; therefore I have gained a prize possession. The Lord gave me my tongue as a reward, and I will praise him with it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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Psalm 78:1-6

1 Hear my teaching, O my people; * **incline your ears to the words of my mouth.**

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; * **I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.**

3 That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, *
and the wonderful works he has done.

5 He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;

6 That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

God of pilgrims, strengthen our faith, we pray. Guide us through the uncertainties of our journey, and hold before us the vision of your eternal kingdom, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44-46, 51-52

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

One: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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Passage about Lancelot Andrewes taken from *For All the Saints* by The Rev. Dr. Stephen J. Reynolds

Lancelot Andrewes was a scholarly bishop of Winchester who died in 1626, and we remember him today because his legacy of preaching and devotion is one of the touchstones of our Anglican tradition.

Andrewes spent over thirty years at Cambridge University, first as an undergraduate, then as a teaching Fellow, and finally as Master of Pembroke College. His learning was immense, and he knew so many languages (a wit once said) that he could have been “the interpreter-general at the confusion of tongues.” His gifts as a scholar not only won him a seat on the commission which produced the King James Version of the Bible in 1611, but also successive appointments as bishop of Chichester, Ely, and finally Winchester.

But there was more to Andrewes than scholarship and the prestige it won for him. While Master of Pembroke College he was also the rector of a London church where he nourished his congregation with instruction in the art and discipline of prayer; and every Saturday he used to walk the aisles of old St. Paul’s Cathedral, ready to hear any who came to him for confession and spiritual counsel. Likewise, in his sermons, he marshalled all his learning in order to expound with passion the saving truth contained in each word and phrase of his text.

At his death in 1626 he left behind another testimony to his devotion, a little book called “Private Prayers,” in which texts from Scripture and the Church’s ancient liturgies were brought together in a braid of adoration, praise, thanksgiving, penitence, oblation, intercession, and petition. Thus, in private prayer as in public office, Lancelot Andrewes sought to be in touch with the deepest springs of Christian action, experience and thought — so that his character became like a mirror in which the Church of England beheld the rich integrity of its own inheritance.

INTERCESSIONS

One: Come, Spirit of God, and inspire our hearts to pray. Lift the spoken and unspoken needs of our hearts and the needs of the world before the throne of heavenly grace as we say,

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

You weave our lives together in a wonderful tapestry of light against the darkness, hope against despair, peace against division, healing against the brokenness. Equip us, Beautiful One, for the fullness of life lived together in your presence.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our payer.

One: Artist of All Creation, your imagination has no boundaries. Your creation witnesses to your joyful inspiration. Your power and depth, we wonder at your gifts in the tender earth, the sustaining waters, and the renewing air. Turn our hands and habits to their care and restoration.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our payer.

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One: Dynamic Trinity, Perfect Relationship, sweeping us up together in your life of community. Your Church needs your energy, your inspiration, your wisdom, and your protection, that we may reveal new ways of living and shaping our life together. Come and empower us. Come and guide us.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our payer.

One: Spirit, you move across the waters of chaos. Still the stormy oceans of our troubled world. Give voice to words that speak of peace and intention to grow together in reconciliation, healing, and mutual love. Shed light on the dark currents of prejudice, discrimination, and privilege.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our payer.

One: In still small voices you speak. Open our ears to hear beyond the winds of self-centeredness and the fire of self-doubt. Give stillness to our restless hearts. Give assurance to the lonely, healing to the broken, strength to the fearful.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our payer.

One: You are the Potter; we are the clay. Pull, push, and mold us in the ways of justice. Break down the dried shapes of persecution and injustice. Remake us in your image.

Lord in your mercy,
All: hear our payer.

Leader: Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN