Welcome to Morning Prayer with the people of the Green Mountain Online Abbey.

A few notes about today's service.
Please leave your microphone on mute during the responsory portions of the service. You are welcome to unmute yourself when you are invited to offer your prayers, then remember to mute it again when you have completed your prayer.

We will always read the Gospel appointed for the day so that we can read and meditate on Jesus' words and teaching.

MORNING PRAYER

September 22, 2020
Tuesday of Ordinary Time, Proper 20

Opening Sentence
The Officiant says the following

God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*

Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* O God, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All* Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

*Officiant* God’s bounty fills the earth:

*People* Come let us worship.

*read in unison* Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Holy One; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving, * and raise a loud shout with psalms.

For you, O God, are a great God; * you are great above all gods. In your hand are the caverns of the earth, * and the heights of the hills are yours also. The sea is yours, for you made it, * and your hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,*
and kneel before God, our Maker,
For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture
and the sheep of your hand.*
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

*Officiant God’s bounty fills the earth:
*People Come let us worship.

**Psalm Appointed**

*read in unison* **Psalms 78:1-39** Part I *Attendite, popule*
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 forebears have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.

4 We will recount to generations to come
your praiseworthy deeds and your power, O God, *
and the wonderful works you have done.

5 You gave your decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which you 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;

7 So that they might put their trust in you, * 
and not forget your deeds, 
but keep your commandments;

8 And not be like their forebears, 
a stubborn and rebellious generation, * 
a generation whose heart was not steadfast, 
and whose spirit was not faithful to you.

9 The people of Ephraim, armed with the bow, * 
turned back in the day of battle;

10 They did not keep your covenant * 
and refused to walk in your law;

11 They forgot what you had done, * 
and the wonders you had shown them.

12 You worked marvels in the sight of their forebears, * 
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13 You split open the sea and let them pass through; * 
you made the waters stand up like walls.

14 You led them with a cloud by day, * 
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
15 You split the hard rocks in the wilderness * and gave them drink as from the great deep.

16 You brought streams out of the cliff, * and the waters gushed out like rivers.

17 But they went on sinning against you, * rebelling in the desert against the Most High.

18 They tested you in their hearts, * demanding food for their craving.

19 They railed against you and said, * “Can God set a table in the wilderness?

20 True, God struck the rock, the waters gushed out, and the gullies overflowed; * but is God able to give bread or to provide meat for the people?”

21 When you heard this, you were full of wrath; * a fire was kindled against Jacob, and your anger mounted against Israel;

22 For they had no faith in you, * nor did they put their trust in your saving power.

23 So you commanded the clouds above * and opened the doors of heaven.
24 You rained down manna upon them to eat *
and gave them grain from heaven.

25 So mortals ate the bread of angels; *
you provided for them food enough.

26 You caused the east wind to blow in the heavens *
and led out the south wind by your might.

27 You rained down flesh upon them like dust *
and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

28 You let it fall in the midst of their camp *
and round about their dwellings.

29 So they ate and were well filled, *
for you gave them what they craved.

30 But they did not stop their craving, *
though the food was still in their mouths.

31 So your anger mounted against them; *
you slew the strongest among them
and laid low the youth of Israel.

32 In spite of all this, they went on sinning *
and had no faith in your wonderful works.
33 So you brought their days to an end like a breath * and their years in sudden terror.

34 Whenever you slew them, they would seek you, * and repent, and diligently search for you.

35 They would remember that you were their rock, * that you, the Most High, were their redeemer.

36 But they flattered you with their mouths * and lied to you with their tongues.

37 Their heart was not steadfast toward you, * and they were not faithful to your covenant.

38 But you were so merciful that you forgave their sins and did not destroy them; * many times you held back your anger and did not permit your wrath to be roused.

39 For you remembered that they were but flesh, * a breath that goes forth and does not return.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
The Lessons

First Reading

Reader: A reading from Acts 18:12-28

12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal. 13 They said, “This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law.” 14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews; 15 but since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters.” 16 And he dismissed them from the tribunal. 17 Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.

18 After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow. 19 When they reached Ephesus, he left them there, but first he himself went into the synagogue and had a discussion with the Jews. 20 When they asked him to stay longer, he declined; 21 but on taking leave of them, he said, “I will return to you, if God wills.” Then he set sail from Ephesus.

22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. 23 After spending some time there he departed and
went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

24 Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. 27 And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

Here ends the reading.

read in unison **Canticle B**

*A Song of Pilgrimage* *Priusquam errarem*

_Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16,20b-22*

Before I ventured forth,
even while I was very young, *
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.

In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *
and I will seek her to the end.

From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom
and became adept in her.
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward
the Almighty has given me the gift of language,*
and with it will I offer praise to God.

The Gospel

*Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke 3:15-22*

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19 But Herod the ruler, who had been
rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added to them all by shutting up John in prison.
21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Here ends the reading.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

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

Officiant  God be with you.
People     And also with you.
Officiant  Let us pray.

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.

Suffrages
V. Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance;  
R. govern and uphold us now and always.  
V. Day by day we bless you  
R. we praise your name forever.  
V. O God, keep us without sin today;  
R. have mercy on us, O God, have mercy.  
V. Show us your love and mercy;  
R. for we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, O God, is our hope;  
R. and we shall never hope in vain.

The Collects

The Collect of the Day  
_Proper 20_
Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. _Amen._

Together  
A Collect for Guidance

O God, our Creator and Sustainer, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Savior. _Amen._
For People Facing Uncertainty
God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. Amen.

The Officiant says
I invite your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession at this time.

(During the silence people may add their own prayers. Please unmute yourself to share your prayer aloud. When you have completed your prayer, return the microphone to mute.)

The Officiant
O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts and our nation; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

The Officiant concludes with the Collect for Mission
A Collect 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 Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

The Officiant and People say together
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.
Together A Collect of Dedication
Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dismissal
Deacon or Officiant Let us bless God.
People To God be thanks forever.

Concluding Sentences
The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy created with the following resources
Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, St. Helena Breviary and A New Zealand Prayer Book