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 25, 2020
Friday of Ordinary Time, Proper 20

Opening Sentence

The Officiant says the following
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Psalm 19:14*

**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*  Our God has redeemed the world:  
*People*  Come, let us worship.

*Said in unison*  **Jubilate**  *Psalm 100*

May all lands be joyful before you, O God, * 
serve with gladness  
and come before your presence with a song.

For we know that you are God; * 
you yourself have made us, and we are yours;  
we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.  
We shall enter your gates with thanksgiving,  
go into your courts with praise, *
give thanks to you and call upon your Name.

For you are good; your mercy is everlasting; * and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

*Officiant*  Our God has redeemed the world:
*People*  Come, let us worship.

**Psalm Appointed**

*read in unison Psalm 88*

*Domine, Deus*

1 O my God, my Savior, * by day and night I cry to you.

2 Let my prayer enter into your presence; * incline your ear to my lamentation.

3 For I am full of trouble; * my life is at the brink of the grave.

4 I am counted among those who go down to the Pit; * I have become like one who has no strength;

5 Lost among the dead, * like the slain who lie in the grave,
6 Whom you remember no more, * for they are cut off from your hand.
7 You have laid me in the depths of the Pit, * 
in dark places, and in the abyss.

8 Your anger weighs upon me heavily, * 
and all your great waves overwhelm me.

9 You have put my friends far from me; 
you have made me to be abhorred by them; * 
I am in prison and cannot get free.

10 My sight has failed me because of trouble; * 
O God, I have called upon you daily; 
I have stretched out my hands to you.

11 Do you work wonders for the dead; * 
will those who have died stand up and give you thanks?

12 Will your loving-kindness be declared in the grave * 
or your faithfulness in the land of destruction?

13 Will your wonders be known in the dark * 
or your righteousness in the country where all is forgotten?

14 But as for me, O God, I cry to you for help; * 
in the morning my prayer comes before you.

15 O God, why have you rejected me; * 
why have you hidden your face from me?
16 Ever since my youth, I have been wretched and at the point of death; * I have borne your terrors with a troubled mind.

17 Your blazing anger has swept over me; * your terrors have destroyed me;

18 They surround me all day long like a flood; * they encompass me on every side.

19 My friend and my neighbor you have put away from me, * and darkness is my only companion.

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 19:21-41

21 Now after these things had been accomplished, Paul resolved in the Spirit to go through Macedonia and Achaia, and then to go on to Jerusalem. He said, “After I have gone there, I must also see Rome.” 22 So he sent two of his
helpers, Timothy and Erastus, to Macedonia, while he himself stayed for some time longer in Asia.

23 About that time no little disturbance broke out concerning the Way. 24 A man named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the artisans. 25 These he gathered together, with the workers of the same trade, and said, “Men, you know that we get our wealth from this business. 26 You also see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost the whole of Asia this Paul has persuaded and drawn away a considerable number of people by saying that gods made with hands are not gods. 27 And there is danger not only that this trade of ours may come into disrepute but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis will be scorned, and she will be deprived of her majesty that brought all Asia and the world to worship her.”

28 When they heard this, they were enraged and shouted, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 The city was filled with the confusion; and people rushed together to the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s travel companions. 30 Paul wished to go into the crowd, but the disciples would not let him; 31 even some officials of the province of Asia, who were friendly to him, sent him a message urging him not to venture into the theater. 32 Meanwhile, some were shouting one thing, some another; for the assembly was in confusion, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 Some of the crowd gave instructions to Alexander, whom the Jews had pushed forward. And Alexander motioned for silence and tried to make a defense
before the people. 34 But when they recognized that he was a Jew, for about two hours all of them shouted in unison, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 35 But when the town clerk had quieted the crowd, he said, “Citizens of Ephesus, who is there that does not know that the city of the Ephesians is the temple keeper of the great Artemis and of the statue that fell from heaven? 36 Since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rash. 37 You have brought these men here who are neither temple robbers nor blasphemers of our goddess. 38 If therefore Demetrius and the artisans with him have a complaint against anyone, the courts are open, and there are proconsuls; let them bring charges there against one another. 39 If there is anything further you want to know, it must be settled in the regular assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being charged with rioting today, since there is no cause that we can give to justify this commotion.” 41 When he had said this, he dismissed the assembly.

Here ends the reading.

*read in unison* Canticle L

**A Song of Christ’s Humility** Philippians 2:6-11

Though in the form of God,

Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, * 
    and was born in human likeness. 
Being found in human form, he humbled himself * 
    and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. 
Therefore, God has highly exalted him * 
    and given him the name above every name, 
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, * 
    in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, * 
    to the glory of God the Father.

The Gospel

31 He went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and was 
    teaching them on the sabbath. 32 They were astounded at 
    his teaching, because he spoke with authority. 33 In the 
    synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean 
    demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 “Let us alone! 
    What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you 
    come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of 
    God.” 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and come 
    out of him!” When the demon had thrown him down before 
    them, he came out of him without having done him any 
    harm. 36 They were all amazed and kept saying to one 
    another, “What kind of utterance is this? For with authority 
    and power he commands the unclean spirits, and out they 
    come!” 37 And a report about him began to reach every 
    place in the region.
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. Help us, O God our Savior;
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. And your wonders among all peoples.
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

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