

# Racial Justice Sunday

## Morning Prayer *(Contemporary revised)*

### Preparation

- O Lord, open our lips.
- All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
- Let your justice roll down like a river, O God,
- All and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

*cf Amos 5.24*

*This canticle (of justice) may be said or another appropriate opening prayer, hymn or song.*

*Gathering Prayer based on a Prayer by Dr Martin Luther King, Jr*

1. Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe came into being, draw us together in love and unity for one another.
2. Help us to first see our own dignity and to unconditionally love ourselves. Give us the strength to love our neighbours, and the courage to go the extra mile and love our enemies.
3. The history of our lives is the history of eternal revolt against you, So, in the light of your grace and mercy, may we learn to love you with all of our hearts, souls and minds.
4. May we forgive just as you forgive us for what we could have been, but failed to be. Give us minds to know your will, Give us hearts to love your will, Give us the devotion to live out your ways, and to be all that we were made to be.  
*[pause]*
5. Rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
6. Give justice to the orphan and oppressed, so that people are no longer driven in terror from the land.

*Psalm 82.1, 3-4*

*Psalm 10.18-19*

- All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*This opening prayer may be said*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

God of love and welcome,  
You call us into your presence on this new day,  
gathered in the richness and beauty of diversity that you willed into being.  
We bring our voices together in harmony with yours  
and unite our hearts through the love for you  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## The Word of God

### Psalmody

*The appointed psalmody or the following psalm is said or sung – antiphonally*

**All Give judgement for me  
according to my righteousness, O Lord.**

- 10 God is my shield that is over me; ♦  
he saves the true of heart.
- 11 God is a righteous judge; ♦  
he is provoked all day long.
- 12 If they will not repent, God will whet his sword; ♦  
he has bent his bow and made it ready.
- 13 He has prepared the weapons of death; ♦  
he makes his arrows shafts of fire.
- 14 Behold those who are in labour with wickedness, ♦  
who conceive evil and give birth to lies.
- 15 They dig a pit and make it deep ♦  
and fall into the hole that they have made for others.
- 16 Their mischief rebounds on their own head; ♦  
their violence falls on their own scalp.
- 17 I will give thanks to the Lord for his righteousness, ♦  
and I will make music to the name of the Lord Most High.

*Psalm 7:10-17*

**All Give judgement for me  
according to my righteousness, O Lord.**

Lord, your justice turns evil on itself:  
move us to examine our hearts  
and repent of all duplicity;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Judge and righteous Saviour.

## Scripture Reading

*If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle. Readings may be taken from the lectionary or from the Scripture Readings in Additional Resources.*

*The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence*

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

*Deut. 30:15-20*

## Canticle

*A Song of Anselm, or another suitable canticle, may follow*

**All Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us.**

- 1 Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you;  
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
- 2 Often you weep over our sins and our pride,  
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
- 3 You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,  
in sickness you nurse us, and with pure milk you feed us.
- 4 Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life;  
by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy.
- 5 Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;  
through your gentleness we find comfort in fear.
- 6 Your warmth gives life to the dead,  
your touch makes sinners righteous.
- 7 Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us.
- 8 In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness,  
for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

*From Anselm of Canterbury*

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All Lord Jesus, in your mercy heal us;  
in your love and tenderness remake us.**

### **Scripture Reading**

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep..

*John 21:15-17*

### **Scripture Reflection**

### **Gospel Canticle**

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said*

**All You promised, O God, to give knowledge of salvation,  
by the forgiveness of all our sins.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68–79*

**All** **Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All** **You promised, O God, to give knowledge of salvation,  
by the forgiveness of all our sins.**

## **Prayers**

*Thanksgiving may be made for the day.*

God of all people,  
Hear our prayers for mercy.  
We cry to you for help in such a time of trouble.  
We have fallen short of your hopes and dreams for us.  
We can see so many in our communities treading water uncertainly;  
We can see so many starting to struggle in despair in the depths of poverty,  
discrimination and marginalisation;  
We can see so many affected by unjust structures and issues of exclusion in society  
knowing that we could play our part in mending; yet we don't do enough.  
We come to you, Merciful God, seeking forgiveness.  
*[pause]*

**All** God of mercy,  
**Hear our prayers.**

God of all people,  
Hear our prayers for mercy.  
We come to you, Lord,  
You who are sovereign over all,  
And we ask that you would draw the whole world together,  
Casting out the evils of prejudice and arrogance that cause hatred and oppression.  
We seek leaders and responsible citizens.  
We long for your justice and peace in our nation and world.  
We come to you, Merciful God, seeking justice.  
*[pause]*

**All** God of justice,  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of all people,  
Hear our prayers of hope.  
We come to you, Lord,  
You whose love is without limit and without end,

And we ask that you help us to open our hearts, minds and wills to you,  
Inspire our bishops, lay and ordained ministers to awaken our compassion  
As we hope for the day  
When we can see Christ in all people and live as members of one family in the  
world.  
We come to you, Merciful God, in hope.  
*[pause]*

God of hope,  
**All Hear our prayer.**

God of mercy,  
**All Forgive our transgressions.**

God of justice,  
**All Answer our prayers.**

God of hope,  
**All Inspire us anew.**

Merciful Father,  
**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Collect of the day, or one of the following is said*

God of compassion,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions  
to see your image in every person  
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.  
May we be generous in our love of others  
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice;  
creating communities of human flourishing,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

## The Conclusion

*A Franciscan Benediction*

May God bless you with discomfort  
At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships,  
So that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger  
At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,  
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears  
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,  
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them  
And turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness  
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,  
So that you can do what others claim cannot be done  
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

**All Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**