

EN

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

DOM

Friday 19 September 2014,

9.00

17.30

JANSKERK

Saturday 20 September 2014

9.00

ATTACHMENTS

Morning and Evening Prayer English

During morning and evening prayer we read from the book of Jonah.

“Get up and go!” the Lord said to Jonah. But Jonah refused, with all his strength. Not that he said “no” to God, or entered into a discussion, like Moses and Elijah once did. Jonah does rise up and go—in the opposite direction. As far away as possible, to the other end of the earth if he can. He would rather die than do what God asks of him. To Nineveh of all places, that great city in the midst of the Assyrian empire, which had tried to wipe Israel from the face of the earth, that city which is a bulwark of heathendom and evil. What kind of business could God, and Jonah, possibly have there?

It is Jonah’s refusal and his fervent resistance which make him a interesting character. He is a powerful representation of the hesitation and resistance that we feel when hearing the words which form the theme of this congress: “Get up and go”. For it is not easy to answer this call with a simple “yes”, in word and deed. Who knows where the road will lead? What demands will it make of us, and how will we benefit from it? Jonah represents the protesting voice, which also resides in ourselves. He is the opposite of Philip, who sets out without question when the Lord calls him (Acts 8: 26-27).

Morning and evening prayer feature three readings from the book of Jonah. We conclude our readings on 20 September, the day on which the church commemorates the Holy Prophet Jonah.

Morning prayer 19 September

Open my heart

When Jonah hears the voice of the Lord: "Get up and go to Nineveh ..." he shuts his ears and flees, as far away as he possibly can. What does he need before he will be open to the Word of the Lord? Quite a lot, apparently. A storm. The distress of his fellow-men all at sea. Quoting St. Augustine, how often does God have to call and shout to conquer our deaf ears. Open our hearts, Lord, break through our deafness, our turning away.

Psalm 13

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the LORD,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Jonah 1: 1-6

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 'Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.' But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to

Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, 'What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.'

Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of
death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Creator of heaven and earth:
You who made your voice heard from the beginning,
You who calls out to us: Where are you, where is your
brother?
Open us for your call, make us answer.

We pray for all who cannot hear
Because they are dejected, knocked out
By war and injustice;
Let your light dispel the darkness on earth.

We pray for all those
Who allow your voice to lead their lives
Who live their lives in devotion, courage and love;
Bless them, make us follow them.

Prayer of the Congress

Lord God,
how can we get up
and go on our way to You
and to each other
if You do not show us the way?
We pray You:
let us see Him
who is our way and our peace,
Jesus Christ, our Lord;
awaken us to life through your Spirit,
so that, as Your daughters and sons, we stand up
reborn and go forward
proclaiming You in word and deed
as the God of our life,
today and for the rest of our days.

Amen.

Evening prayer 19 September

Teach me communion.

Jonah descended to the coast, into the ship, into the water, and eventually into the large fish. He sinks deeper and deeper, his way comes to a dead end. It is only there, at rock bottom, that he prays to God. There is no depth at which we cannot call unto God. Jonah is not left all alone. His prayer is his salvation. He is brought back to the land of the living. There is no life on my own, separated from everything and everyone. No-one can cope alone. Lord, teach me communion.

Psalm 15

A Psalm of David.

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue,

and do no evil to their friends,

nor take up a reproach against their neighbours;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised,

but who honour those who fear the LORD;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest,

and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Jonah 2: 1-11

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying,

'I called to the LORD out of my distress,
and he answered me;

out of the belly of Sheol I cried,

and you heard my voice.

You cast me into the deep,
into the heart of the seas,
and the flood surrounded me;
all your waves and your billows
passed over me.
Then I said, "I am driven away
from your sight;
how shall I look again
upon your holy temple?"
The waters closed in over me;
the deep surrounded me;
weeds were wrapped around my head
at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land
whose bars closed upon me for ever;
yet you brought up my life from the Pit,
O LORD my God.
As my life was ebbing away,
I remembered the LORD;
and my prayer came to you,
into your holy temple.
Those who worship vain idols
forsake their true loyalty.
But I with the voice of thanksgiving
will sacrifice to you;
what I have vowed I will pay.
Deliverance belongs to the LORD!
Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out
upon the dry land.

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their
hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed
for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Intercessions

Let us pray to God, who created all people,
People of various colours, languages and customs:
You who said "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth,"
Make us understand that we are gifts to each other.

We pray for those who are caught between a rock and a hard
place,

The many refugees here on earth,
Children and adults, lost wanderers,
Bring them home, Lord, teach us to be a home to each other.

We pray for our world
Where discord and war are too often our foremost means of
contact.
Teach us the way toward understanding, toward peace.
Make us mild and creative, disarm us.

Morning prayer 20 September

Move me.

That call again: "Get up and go!" And now Jonah goes. Still
on leaden feet. But he goes. That is what's most important.
He will be amazed by the end result of his mission. We do
what we can and dare, and what happens then is beyond us,
that is God's doing. A wondrous combination of taking action
and letting go Lord, move me.

Psalm 121

A Song of Ascents.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,
 who made heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved;
 he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
 will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper;
 the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
 nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil;
 he will keep your life.
The LORD will keep
 your going out and your coming in
 from this time on and for evermore.

Jonah 3: 1-10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, 'Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.' So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, 'Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!' And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: 'By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. Who

knows? God may relent and change his mind; he may turn from his fierce anger, so that we do not perish.'
When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

Benedictus (p. 3-4)

Intercessions

Let us pray to God, who wants to join us on our journey
As he joined his people on their journey through the desert;
Give us the courage to put our lives into your hands,
To rely on your presence.

We pray for those who are hemmed in
By sickness, old age, dependency, captivity,
Who are unable to go and do as they please;
Send your liberating Spirit, to point them towards a passable
way.

We pray for ourselves as we are,
Let us be encouraged by our friendship, our contact.
Move us onto the road that you point out
And make us put our trust in you, who surpasses all our
doing.