

Common Worship - **Morning Prayer Readings** -Church of England
9th. Sunday after Trinity (Proper 13) Year C

FIRST READING either **Song of Solomon 5.2–end.**

A reading from the Song of Solomon, chapter 5.

I slept, but my heart was awake. Listen! my beloved is knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my perfect one; for my head is wet with dew, my locks with the drops of the night."

I had put off my garment; how could I put it on again? I had bathed my feet; how could I soil them?

My beloved thrust his hand into the opening, and my inmost being yearned for him. I arose to open to my beloved, and my hands dripped with myrrh, my fingers with liquid myrrh, upon the handles of the bolt.

I opened to my beloved, but my beloved had turned and was gone. My soul failed me when he spoke. I sought him, but did not find him; I called him, but he gave no answer.

Making their rounds in the city the sentinels found me; they beat me, they wounded me, they took away my mantle, those sentinels of the walls.

I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if you find my beloved, tell him this: I am faint with love.

What is your beloved more than another beloved, O fairest among women? What is your beloved more than another beloved, that you thus adjure us?

My beloved is all radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand.

His head is the finest gold; his locks are wavy, black as a raven.

His eyes are like doves beside springs of water, bathed in milk, fitly set.

His cheeks are like beds of spices, yielding fragrance. His lips are lilies, distilling liquid myrrh.

His arms are rounded gold, set with jewels. His body is ivory work, encrusted with sapphires.

His legs are alabaster columns, set upon bases of gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as the cedars.

His speech is most sweet, and he is altogether desirable. This is my beloved and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

For the Word of the LORD.

or 1 Maccabees 3.1–12

A reading from the first book of Maccabees chapter 3.

Then Mattathias' son Judas, who was called Maccabeus, took command in his place. All his brothers and all who had joined his father helped him; they gladly fought for Israel.

He extended the glory of his people.

Like a giant he put on his breastplate;
he bound on his armor of war and waged battles,
protecting the camp by his sword.

He was like a lion in his deeds,
like a lion's cub roaring for prey.

He searched out and pursued those who broke the law;
he burned those who troubled his people.

Lawbreakers shrank back for fear of him;
all the evildoers were confounded;
and deliverance prospered by his hand.

He embittered many kings,
but he made Jacob glad by his deeds,
and his memory is blessed forever.

He went through the cities of Judah;
he destroyed the ungodly out of the land;
thus he turned away wrath from Israel.

He was renowned to the ends of the earth;
he gathered in those who were perishing.

Apollonius now gathered together Gentiles and a large force from Samaria to fight against Israel.

When Judas learned of it, he went out to meet him, and he defeated and killed him. Many were wounded and fell, and the rest fled.

Then they seized their spoils; and Judas took the sword of Apollonius, and used it in battle the rest of his life.

For the Word of the LORD.

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1.1–15

A reading from the second letter of Peter, Chapter 1.

Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith as precious as ours through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Thus he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature.

For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love.

For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For anyone who lacks these things is nearsighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble.

For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.

Therefore I intend to keep on reminding you of these things, though you know them already and are established in the truth that has come to you.

I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to refresh your memory, since I know that my death will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For the Word of the LORD.