

St. John's Episcopal Church

EVENING PRAYER

Every Thursday at 7:00 PM

Conference Call Dial-in (978) 990-5000

Access Code: 893082

MATTHEW 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Please join us on Thursday, October 1st at 7:00 PM for Evening Prayer, Rite Two, led by Edwina Dean-McCrimmon.

Note: We invite you to light a candle

Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. *Psalm 96:9*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People (together): Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron (together)*

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Today's Appointed Psalm and Lessons

Psalm 105: Part II *Et intravit Israel*

23 Israel came into Egypt, * and Jacob became a sojourner in the land of Ham.

24 The Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; * he made them stronger than their enemies;

25 Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people, * and dealt unjustly with his servants.

26 He sent Moses his servant, * and Aaron whom he had chosen.

27 They worked his signs among them, * and portents in the land of Ham.

28 He sent darkness, and it grew dark; * but the Egyptians rebelled against his words.

29 He turned their waters into blood * and caused their fish to die.

30 Their land was overrun by frogs, * in the very chambers of their kings.

31 He spoke, and there came swarms of insects * and gnats within all their borders.

32 He gave them hailstones instead of rain, * and flames of fire throughout their land.

33 He blasted their vines and their fig trees * and shattered every tree in their country.

34 He spoke, and the locust came, * and young locusts without number,

35 Which ate up all the green plants in their land * and devoured the fruit of their soil.

36 He struck down the firstborn of their land, * the firstfruits of all their strength.

37 He led out his people with silver and gold; * in all their tribes there was not one that stumbled.

38 Egypt was glad of their going, * because they were afraid of them.

39 He spread out a cloud for a covering * and a fire to give light in the night season.

40 They asked, and quails appeared, * and he satisfied them with bread from heaven.

41 He opened the rock, and water flowed, * so the river ran in the dry places.

42 For God remembered his holy word * and Abraham his servant.

43 So he led forth his people with gladness, * his chosen with shouts of joy.

44 He gave his people the lands of the nations, * and they took the fruit of others' toil,

45 That they might keep his statutes * and observe his laws. Hallelujah!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The First Lesson: A Reading from Book Hosea 5:8-6:6 (Esabel)

⁸ Blow the horn in Gibeah, the trumpet in Ramah. Sound the alarm at Beth-aven; look behind you, Benjamin! ⁹ Ephraim shall become a desolation on the day of punishment; among the tribes of Israel I declare what is sure. ¹⁰ The princes of Judah have become like those who remove the landmark; on them I will pour out my wrath like water. ¹¹ Ephraim is oppressed, crushed in judgement, because he was determined to go after vanity.* ¹² Therefore I am like maggots to Ephraim, and like rottenness to the house of Judah. ¹³ When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then Ephraim went to Assyria, and sent to the great king.* But he is not able to cure you or heal your wound. ¹⁴ For I will be like a lion to Ephraim, and like a young lion to the house of Judah. I myself will tear and go away; I will carry off, and no one shall rescue. ¹⁵ I will return again to my place until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face. In their distress they will beg my favour:

6'Come, let us return to the LORD; for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³ Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.' ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have killed them by the words of my mouth, and my* judgement goes forth as the light. ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt-offerings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis, Luke 2:29-32 (together)*

Lord, you now have set your servant free *

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, *

and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Second Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Acts 21:27-36 (Winnie)

²⁷ When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, who had seen him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd. They seized him, ²⁸ shouting, 'Fellow-Israelites, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against our people, our law, and this place; more than that, he has actually brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.' ²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple. ³⁰ Then all the city was aroused, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut. ³¹ While they were trying to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. ³² Immediately he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. When they saw the

tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. ³³Then the tribune came, arrested him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; he inquired who he was and what he had done. ³⁴Some in the crowd shouted one thing, some another; and as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks. ³⁵When Paul came to the steps, the violence of the mob was so great that he had to be carried by the soldiers. ³⁶The crowd that followed kept shouting, 'Away with him!'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke 6:1-11 (Edwina)

⁶One sabbath while Jesus was going through the cornfields, his disciples plucked some heads of grain, rubbed them in their hands, and ate them. ²But some of the Pharisees said, 'Why are you doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' ³Jesus answered, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴He entered the house of God and took and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and gave some to his companions?' ⁵Then he said to them, 'The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

⁶ On another sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. ⁷The scribes and the Pharisees watched him to see whether he would cure on the sabbath, so that they might find an accusation against him. ⁸Even though he knew what they were thinking, he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come and stand here.' He got up and stood there. ⁹Then Jesus said to them, 'I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?' ¹⁰After looking around at all of them, he said to him, 'Stretch out your hand.' He did so, and his hand was restored. ¹¹But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

****Reflections on the reading****

The Apostles' Creed *(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

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader and People (together)

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

Suffrage A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.

(Leader) A Collect for the Nation: Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

(Leader) A Collect for Protection: O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

(Leader) A Collect for Social Justice: Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Together) A Prayer for the Human Family: 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; 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 Lord. **Amen.**

Leader: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

****Friends, who can we pray for tonight? Let us offer up our intercessions & thanksgivings****

- Prayers for the reposed souls of over 206,000 souls we've lost due to complications related to Covid-19. We pray for their grieving families.
- Prayers for Rick Rowe, John Owens, Mother Rhoda, Fr. Jerry Keucher, Fr. Lewis Marshall, Jay Torchio and for all those who may be suffering in mind, body and spirit.
- Prayers for all those who may feel alone, hopeless and in despair
- Prayers for students, teachers, principals, staff and parents as schools are reopening.
- Prayers for the St. John's search committee as they review candidate resumes a Priest-In-Charge

The General Thanksgiving (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.*

(Leader) A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Leader: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. ***Amen. Romans 15:13***

God's blessings and have a restful night!