

St. John's Episcopal Church

EVENING PRAYER

Every Thursday at 7:00 PM

Conference Call Dial-in (978) 990-5000
Access Code: 893082

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

Please join us on Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 PM for Evening Prayer, Rite Two, led by **Esabel Mariso**.

Note: We invite you to light a candle

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalms 16:7,8*

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 74 *Ut quid, Deus? (responsively)*

1 O God, why have you utterly cast us off? * why is your wrath so hot against the sheep of your pasture?

2 Remember your congregation that you purchased long ago, * the tribe you redeemed to be your inheritance, and Mount Zion where you dwell.

3 Turn your steps toward the endless ruins; * the enemy has laid waste everything in your sanctuary.

4 Your adversaries roared in your holy place; * they set up their banners as tokens of victory.

5 They were like men coming up with axes to a grove of trees; * they broke down all your carved work with hatchets and hammers.

6 They set fire to your holy place; * they defiled the dwelling-place of your Name and razed it to the ground.

7 They said to themselves, "Let us destroy them altogether." * They burned down all the meeting-places of God in the land.

8 There are no signs for us to see; there is no prophet left; * there is not one among us who knows how long.

9 How long, O God, will the adversary scoff? * will the enemy blaspheme your Name for ever?

10 Why do you draw back your hand? * why is your right hand hidden in your bosom?

11 Yet God is my King from ancient times, * victorious in the midst of the earth.

12 You divided the sea by your might * and shattered the heads of the dragons upon the waters;

13 You crushed the heads of Leviathan * and gave him to the people of the desert for food.

14 You split open spring and torrent; * you dried up ever-flowing rivers.

15 Yours is the day, yours also the night; * you established the moon and the sun.

16 You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; * you made both summer and winter.

17 Remember, O Lord, how the enemy scoffed, * how a foolish people despised your Name.

18 Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts; * never forget the lives of your poor.

19 Look upon your covenant; * the dark places of the earth are haunts of violence.

20 Let not the oppressed turn away ashamed; * let the poor and needy praise your Name.

21 Arise, O God, maintain your cause; * remember how fools revile you all day long.

22 Forget not the clamor of your adversaries, * the unending tumult of those who rise up against you.

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 of Job 28:1-28 (ELYNE)

28¹ Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold to be refined. ² Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is smelted from ore. ³ Miners put⁺ an end to darkness, and search out to the farthest bound the ore in gloom and deep darkness. ⁴ They open shafts in a valley away from human habitation; they are forgotten by travellers, they sway suspended, remote from people. ⁵ As for the earth, out of it comes bread; but underneath it is turned up as by fire. ⁶ Its stones are the place of sapphires,⁺ and its dust contains gold.

⁷ 'That path no bird of prey knows, and the falcon's eye has not seen it. ⁸ The proud wild animals have not trodden it; the lion has not passed over it. ⁹ 'They put their hand to the flinty rock, and overturn mountains by the roots. ¹⁰ They cut out channels in the rocks, and their eyes see every precious thing. ¹¹ The sources of the rivers they probe;⁺ hidden things they bring to light.

¹² 'But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? ¹³ Mortals do not know the way to it,⁺ and it is not found in the land of the living. ¹⁴ The deep says, "It is not in me", and the sea says, "It is not with me." ¹⁵ It cannot be bought for gold, and silver cannot be weighed out as its price. ¹⁶ It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir, in precious onyx or sapphire.⁺ ¹⁷ Gold and glass cannot equal it, nor can it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. ¹⁸ No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal; the price of wisdom is above pearls. ¹⁹ The chrysolite of Ethiopia⁺ cannot compare with it, nor can it be valued in pure gold.

²⁰ 'Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding? ²¹ It is hidden from the eyes of all living and concealed from the birds of the air. ²² Abaddon and Death say, "We have heard a rumour of it with our ears." ²³ 'God understands the way to it, and he knows its place. ²⁴ For he looks to the ends of the earth, and sees everything under the heavens. ²⁵ When he gave to the wind its weight, and apportioned out the waters by measure; ²⁶ when he made a decree for the rain, and a way for the thunderbolt; ²⁷ then he saw it and declared it; he established it, and searched it out. ²⁸ And he said to humankind, "Truly, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding."

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 16:25-40 (AGNES)

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' 29 The jailer* called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' 31 They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' 32 They spoke the word of the Lord* to him and to all who were in his house. 33 At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. 34 He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

35 When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, 'Let those men go.' 36 And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, 'The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace.' 37 But Paul replied, 'They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they going to discharge us in secret? Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.' 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens; 39 so they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. 40 After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters* there, they departed.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospel of John 12:27-36 (Esabel)

27 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' 29 The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' 30 Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. 31 Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people* to myself.' 33 He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. 34 The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law that the Messiah* remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?' 35 Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. 36 While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.'

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

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 Peace: Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

(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.*

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 196,900 souls who have died due to complications related to Covid-19.
- Prayer for the reposed soul of The Rev. Melissa Kean
- Prayers for Rick Rowe on a speedy recovery

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: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

May God continue to bless you and your family! Have a restful night.