# 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 for ever. Amen.

Please join us on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 PM for Evening Prayer, Rite Two, led by Edwina McCrimmon.

Note: We invite you to light a candle during Evening Prayer.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2* 

#### **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 59 Eripe me de inimicis

- 1 Rescue me from my enemies, O God; \* protect me from those who rise up against me.
- 2 Rescue me from evildoers \* and save me from those who thirst for my blood.
- 3 See how they lie in wait for my life, how the mighty gather together against me; \* not for any offense or fault of mine, O Lord.
- 4 Not because of any guilt of mine \* they run and prepare themselves for battle.
- 5 Rouse yourself, come to my side, and see; \* for you, Lord God of hosts, are Israel's God.
- 6 Awake, and punish all the ungodly; \* show no mercy to those who are faithless and evil.
- 7 They go to and fro in the evening; \* they snarl like dogs and run about the city.
- 8 Behold, they boast with their mouths, and taunts are on their lips; \* "For who," they say, "will hear us?"
- 9 But you, O Lord, you laugh at them; \* you laugh all the ungodly to scorn.
- 10 My eyes are fixed on you, O my Strength; \* for you, O God, are my stronghold.
- 11 My merciful God comes to meet me; \* God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.
- 12 Slay them, O God, lest my people forget; \* send them reeling by your might and put them down, O Lord our shield.
- 13 For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, for the cursing and lies that they utter, \* let them be caught in their pride.
- 14 Make an end of them in your wrath; \* make an end of them, and they shall be no more.
- 15 Let everyone know that God rules in Jacob, \* and to the ends of the earth.
- 16 They go to and fro in the evening; \* they snarl like dogs and run about the city.
- 17 They forage for food, \* and if they are not filled, they howl.
- 18 For my part, I will sing of your strength; \* I will celebrate your love in the morning;
- 19 For you have become my stronghold, \* a refuge in the day of my trouble.

20 To you, O my Strength, will I sing; \* for you, O God, are my stronghold and my merciful God.

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 Job 29:1,31:1-23 (RICK)

29Job again took up his discourse and said:

- 31'I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I look upon a virgin? <sup>2</sup> What would be my portion from God above, and my heritage from the Almighty- on high? <sup>3</sup> Does not calamity befall the unrighteous, and disaster the workers of iniquity? <sup>4</sup> Does he not see my ways, and number all my steps?
- <sup>5</sup> 'If I have walked with falsehood, and my foot has hurried to deceit— <sup>6</sup> let me be weighed in a just balance, and let God know my integrity!— <sup>7</sup> if my step has turned aside from the way, and my heart has followed my eyes, and if any spot has clung to my hands; <sup>8</sup> then let me sow, and another eat; and let what grows for me be rooted out.
- <sup>9</sup> 'If my heart has been enticed by a woman, and I have lain in wait at my neighbour's door; <sup>10</sup> then let my wife grind for another, and let other men kneel over her. <sup>11</sup> For that would be a heinous crime; that would be a criminal offence; <sup>12</sup> for that would be a fire consuming down to Abaddon, and it would burn to the root all my harvest.
- <sup>13</sup> 'If I have rejected the cause of my male or female slaves, when they brought a complaint against me; <sup>14</sup> what then shall I do when God rises up? When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer him? <sup>15</sup> Did not he who made me in the womb make them? And did not one fashion us in the womb?
- <sup>16</sup> 'If I have withheld anything that the poor desired, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail, <sup>17</sup> or have eaten my morsel alone, and the orphan has not eaten from it—<sup>18</sup> for from my youth I reared the orphan<sup>±</sup> like a father, and from my mother's womb I guided the widow<sup>±</sup>—<sup>19</sup> if I have seen anyone perish for lack of clothing, or a poor person without covering, <sup>20</sup> whose loins have not blessed me, and who was not warmed with the fleece of my sheep; <sup>21</sup> if I have raised my hand against the orphan, because I saw I had supporters at the gate; <sup>22</sup> then let my shoulder blade fall from my shoulder, and let my arm be broken from its socket. <sup>23</sup> For I was in terror of calamity from God, and I could not have faced his majesty.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

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 15:1-11 (Esabel)

15Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' <sup>2</sup>And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. <sup>3</sup>So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. <sup>4</sup>When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. <sup>5</sup>But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

6 The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup>After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers,\* you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. <sup>8</sup>And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; <sup>9</sup>and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. <sup>10</sup>Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup>On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## A Reading from the Gospel of John 11:17-29 (Edwina)

17 When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus\* had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles\* away, <sup>19</sup>and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup>Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' <sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' <sup>24</sup>Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life.\* Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' <sup>27</sup>She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah,\* the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

28 When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' <sup>29</sup>And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

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) 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\*\*

We remember and pray for souls of all those we lost on September 11, 2001.

## 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:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* 2 Corinthians 13:14

Blessings to you all and have a restful night. God bless you!