

AS WE CELEBRATE ALL OF OUR GRADUATES TODAY, WE GIVE SPECIAL THANKS FOR OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO HAVE BEEN PART OF OUR YOUTH PROGRAMS. THEIR PRESENCE, THOUGHTFULNESS, CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY, PRAYERFULNESS, AND LAUGHTER HAS BEEN A GIFT TO BOTH ST. CATHERINE'S AND THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. WE ARE RICHER FOR THEIR PRESENCE AMONG US. TODAY'S LECTORS ARE BOTH GRADUATING SENIORS WHO HAVE BEEN PART OF OUR YOUTH GROUPS.

A note about Morning Prayer

Marking the times of the day with prayer — sanctifying time — is a practice shared by all of the Abrahamic faith traditions (Christianity, Judaism and Islam). In the monastic communities of the early church, life centered around shared prayer in the divine offices, or liturgy of the hours. These offices consisted of a psalm, appointed Bible readings, canticles, and the Lord's Prayer. Eventually seven offices developed: Matins, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline.

During the English Reformation, Thomas Cranmer, the primary author of the first Book of Common Prayer, simplified these many offices to two — Morning and Evening Prayer. The offices are designed to be led by laity or clergy, making them accessible to everyone. For centuries, Morning Prayer shaped the pattern of Sunday worship in many communities, especially when clergy were shared between multiple communities. Of necessity, the Eucharist only occurred when the priest could be present, often just one Sunday a month. And, as often happens, a pattern born of necessity became the tradition. The 1979 Book of Common Prayer restored the practice of the early church with the Eucharist as the primary expression of worship on Sundays in the Episcopal tradition.

As we return to the tradition of Morning Prayer in our faith communities during this diaspora, we are consciously returning to that longstanding tradition of sanctifying time. The Daily Office can be a rich and rewarding way to connect with God. Daily lectionary readings ground the offices solidly in scripture, and following the lectionary cycle makes it possible for one to read/hear most of the Bible in the course of the two year cycle of readings. Just as the cycles of the liturgical year orient us toward the overarching story of the redemption of the world through Jesus Christ, grounding our days in the the offices provides us with a daily reminder of God's activity throughout the ages.

An Order for Morning Prayer

May 17, 2020

The officiant begins the service:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

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.

Except in Lent, add Alleluia.

Christ our Passover *Pascha nostrum* **1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22**
Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, *

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, *

so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Then follows

The Psalm

Psalm 66:7-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 **Who holds our souls in life, ***
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; *
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 **You brought us into the snare; ***
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 **I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, ***
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; *
I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 **Come and listen, all you who fear God, ***
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, *
and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 **If I had found evil in my heart, ***
the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; *
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 **Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, ***
nor withheld his love from me.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

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

Read by Holley Murray, Youth at ECOHS

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him – though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which

he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Thou, whose almighty word

#371

1 Thou, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard,
2 Thou who didst come to bring on thy re - deem - ing wing
3 Spi - rit of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly Dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight; hear us, we hum - bly pray, and, where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth thy flight! Move on the wa - ters' face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might; bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

Gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light!
in - ly blind, now to all hu - man - kind, let there be light!
gifts of grace, and, in earth's dark - est place, let there be light!
full - est pride, through the world, far and wide, let there be light!

The Second Lesson

Read by Owen Snape, Youth at St. Catherine's

John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world can-

not receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn

God is love, let heaven adore him

#379

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
one em - brace; with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun-
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.
 self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.
 Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Homily

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together, all standing

**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

The People stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
 Officiant Let us pray.
Officiant and People
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed by 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.**

Then follows the Suffrages

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 with your Holy Spirit.

The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Mission

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

The General Thanksgiving

BCP 101, Adapted

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your beloved 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 even as we lament our separation from one another,
we may know the deeper assurance of your abiding presence.
May we continually 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.

Then may be said

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Officiant concludes with a blessing

The Blessing

Final Hymn

Come ye faithful, raise the strain

#199

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst his pri - son,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness:
 and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath ris - en;
 with the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joy to ren - der;
 nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold thee as a mor - tal:

loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters,
 all the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
 comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
 but to - day a - midst thine own thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

led them with un - mois - tened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 from his light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' re - sur - rec - tion.
 that thy peace which ev - er - more pass - eth hu - man know - ing.