

# Evening Prayer

The First Thursday After the Epiphany

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Richard Meux Benson, *Priest, 1915*; and Charles Gore, *Bishop, 1932*

*The Officiant says*

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *Psalm 43:3*

## Confession of Sin

*The Officiant then says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People*

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will. Amen.

*The Officiant stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## 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. Alleluia.

### Psalm 141:1-3, 8ab

*Domine, clamavi*

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

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; \*  
hear my voice when I cry to you.  
Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, \*  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.  
Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips; \*  
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.  
My eyes are turned to you, Lord God; \*  
in you I take refuge.

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

### Psalms Appointed

Psalm 18:21-50

### Psalm 18:21-50

*Et retribuēt mihi*

- 21 The LORD rewarded me because of my righteous dealing; \*  
because my hands were clean he rewarded me;
- 22 For I have kept the ways of the LORD\*  
and have not offended against my God;
- 23 For all his judgments are before my eyes, \*  
and his decrees I have not put away from me;

- 24 For I have been blameless with him \*  
and have kept myself from iniquity;
- 25 Therefore the LORD rewarded me according to my  
righteous dealing, \*  
because of the cleanness of my hands in his sight.
- 26 With the faithful you show yourself faithful, O God; \*  
with the forthright you show yourself forthright.
- 27 With the pure you show yourself pure, \*  
but with the crooked you are wily.
- 28 You will save a lowly people, \*  
but you will humble the haughty eyes.
- 29 You, O LORD, are my lamp; \*  
my God, you make my darkness bright.
- 30 With you I will break down an enclosure; \*  
with the help of my God I will scale any wall.
- 31 As for God, his ways are perfect;  
the words of the LORD are tried in the fire; \*  
he is a shield to all who trust in him.
- 32 For who is God, but the LORD? \*  
who is the Rock, except our God?
- 33 It is God who girds me about with strength \*  
and makes my way secure.
- 34 He makes me sure-footed like a deer \*  
and lets me stand firm on the heights.
- 35 He trains my hands for battle \*  
and my arms for bending even a bow of bronze.
- 36 You have given me your shield of victory; \*  
your right hand also sustains me;  
your loving care makes me great.
- 37 You lengthen my stride beneath me, \*  
and my ankles do not give way.
- 38 I pursue my enemies and overtake them; \*  
I will not turn back till I have destroyed them.

- 39 I strike them down, and they cannot rise; \*  
they fall defeated at my feet.
- 40 You have girded me with strength for the battle; \*  
you have cast down my adversaries beneath me;  
you have put my enemies to flight.
- 41 I destroy those who hate me;  
they cry out, but there is none to help them; \*  
they cry to the LORD, but he does not answer.
- 42 I beat them small like dust before the wind; \*  
I trample them like mud in the streets.
- 43 You deliver me from the strife of the peoples; \*  
you put me at the head of the nations.
- 44 A people I have not known shall serve me;  
no sooner shall they hear than they shall obey me; \*  
strangers will cringe before me.
- 45 The foreign peoples will lose heart; \*  
they shall come trembling out of their strongholds.
- 46 The LORD lives! Blessed is my Rock! \*  
Exalted is the God of my salvation!
- 47 He is the God who gave me victory \*  
and cast down the peoples beneath me.
- 48 You rescued me from the fury of my enemies;  
you exalted me above those who rose against me; \*  
you saved me from my deadly foe.
- 49 Therefore will I extol you among the nations, O LORD, \*  
and sing praises to your Name.
- 50 He multiplies the victories of his king; \*  
he shows loving-kindness to his anointed,  
to David and his descendants for ever.

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.

## Readings

*A period of silence will follow each reading.*

### First Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Ephesus.

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

*Reader*           The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

### Canticle J

A Song of Judith

I will sing a new song to my God, \*  
    for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.  
Let the whole creation serve you, \*  
    for you spoke and all things came into being.  
You sent your breath and it formed them, \*  
    no one is able to resist your voice.  
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, \*  
    rocks melt like wax at your presence.

But to those who fear you, \*  
you continue to show mercy.  
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, \*  
but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 2:1-12

A Reading from Mark.

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the paralytic—"I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.  
*People*             Thanks be to God.

## Canticle 15

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*

in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

### **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.

## Prayers

*Officiant*           The Lord be with you.

*People*                And also with you.

*Officiant*            Let us pray.

*Officiant and People*

Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your Name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done,  
        on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those  
        who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
    and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
    and the glory are yours,  
    now and for ever. Amen.

*The Officiant and People say responsively*

### Suffrages B.

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before  
the great judgment seat of Christ,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of Richard Meux Benson, Charles Gore, and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

### *Collect of the Day*

*The Officiant then says*

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

### *Richard Meux Benson & Charles Gore*

Gracious God, who kindled in your servants Richard Meux Benson and Charles Gore the grace to lead a revival of monastic life: grant us also the resolve to serve you faithfully in contemplation and prayer, ministering to the world that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

### *For our Country*

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly ask you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *A Collect for the Presence of Christ*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

### *Collect for Mission*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Prayers of the People**

### *Intercessor*

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

### *A Prayer in Time of Great Sickness and Mortality*

O most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succor. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### *For the Oppressed*

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## *Litany of Remembrance*

As the world continues to respond to the pandemic of the virus, help us, O Lord, to remember.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.  
*Help us, O Lord, to remember*

May we who have no risk factors remember those who are vulnerable.  
*Help us, O Lord, to remember*

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between their health or paying their rent.  
*Help us, O Lord, to remember*

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.  
*Help us, O Lord, to remember*

May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.  
*Help us, O Lord, to remember*

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.  
*Help us, O Lord, to remember*

May we who settle in for quarantine at home remember those who have no home.  
*Help us, O Lord, to remember*

As fear grips our country let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. *Amen.*

## *The General Thanksgiving*

### *Officiant and People*

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.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

### *Officiant*

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

## **Announcements**

*Announcements may be made at this point in the service.*

*Richard Meux Benson, Priest, 1915*  
*Charles Gore, Bishop, 1932*

*LFF p. 69*

Richard Meux Benson and Charles Gore are remembered for their role in the revival of Anglican monasticism in the nineteenth century.

Richard Meux Benson was born in London in 1824. He was educated at home until he went to Christ Church, Oxford, where he studied under Edward Bouverie Pusey. He was subsequently ordained as a priest and served as vicar of the village of Cowley, not far from Oxford. In 1858 Fr. Benson conducted the first of many silent retreats for priests for which he later became well-known. Also around this time, he established a church dedicated to St. John the Evangelist in Cowley, and made plans to travel to India to gather a community of missionaries to live with him in poverty. His bishop, however, urged him to stay in England, where the Oxford Movement was spreading.

At this time, although there were Anglican monastic communities for women, there were no communities for men. With the support of other High Churchmen, in 1865 Fr. Benson, with Fr. S.W. O'Neill, established a community that was both contemplative and externally focused, which they called the Mission Priests of St. John the Evangelist. It was the first religious order of monks in the Church of England since the Reformation. Fr. Benson was named Superior, and as such, developed the Society's Rule of Life and Constitution. The brothers recited the Daily Office together, were urged to spend at least an hour in contemplation, and continued their priestly ministry outside the monastery. In the late 1800s the Society spread to the United States, India and South Africa. Fr. Benson himself visited the community in Boston and remained there for a number of years before returning to England, where he died in 1915.

Charles Gore was born in 1853 in Wimbledon and was educated mainly at Oxford. He was ordained in 1876 and served in positions at Cuddesdon and Pusey House, Oxford, both of which were focused upon theological education and the formation of clergy. While at Pusey House, Gore founded the Community of the Resurrection, a community for men that sought to combine the rich traditions of the religious life with a lively concern for the demands of ministry in the modern world.

Gore, a prolific writer and noted theologian, was a principal progenitor of liberal Anglo-Catholicism in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Anglicanism. He was concerned to make available the critical scholarship of the age available to the church, particularly with respect to the Bible. A second but no less important concern was to prick the conscience of the church and plead for its engagement in the work of social justice for all. Between 1902 and 1919, Gore served successively as bishop of the dioceses of Worcester, Birmingham, and Oxford, seamlessly uniting his vocations of bishop, monastic, and theologian. He died in 1932.