

# Evening Prayer

The Fifth Thursday of Easter

Thursday, May 6, 2021

*The Officiant says*

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*

## 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.

### O Gracious Light

*Phos hilaron*

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.

### Psalms Appointed

Psalm 74

**Psalm 74**

*Ut quid, Deus?*

- 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.

## Readings

*A period of silence will follow each reading.*

### First Reading

Romans 14:1-12

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

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to 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

## Luke 8:26-39

A Reading from Luke.

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As Jesus stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”—for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned.

The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

*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 you, O God my Savior, \*  
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,  
and holy is your name.  
You have mercy on those who fear you \*  
from generation to generation.  
You have shown strength with your arm \*  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
Casting down the mighty from their thrones \*  
and lifting up the lowly.  
You have filled the hungry with good things \*  
and sent the rich away empty.  
You have come to the help of your servant Israel, \*  
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,  
The promise made to our forebears, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

## **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 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.

### *Collect of the Day*

*The Officiant then says*

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *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.*

### *Prayer for Mission*

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.*

## **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.*

### *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. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

### *Officiant*

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*

### **Announcements**

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