



**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VERMONT**  
*Together in Christ...growing locally, serving globally*

MORNING PRAYER FROM  
THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

*March 26, 2020*

*The Fourth Thursday in Lent*

**Opening Sentence**

**BCP 76**

*The Officiant says*

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, because we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws which he set before us. *Daniel 9:9, 10*

**Confession of Sin**

**BCP 79**

*Officiant*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A period of silence is kept.*

*All say 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.

*The Bishop says*

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

## **Invitatory and Psalter**

**BCP 80**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All* 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.

*Officiant* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People* Come let us adore him.

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*Officiant* The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:  
*People* Come let us adore him.

## **Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

*The Psalm is read in unison*

**Psalm 69: 1-23, 31-38** *Salvum me fac*

1 Save me, O God, \* for the waters have risen up to my neck.

2 I am sinking in deep mire, \* and there is no firm ground for my feet.

3 I have come into deep waters, \* and the torrent washes over me.

4 I have grown weary with my crying; my throat is inflamed; \*  
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.

5 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;  
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty. \*  
Must I then give back what I never stole?

6 O God, you know my foolishness, \*

and my faults are not hidden from you.

7 Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,  
Lord God of hosts; \*

let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me, O God of Israel.

8 Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, \*  
and shame has covered my face.

9 I have become a stranger to my own kindred, \*  
an alien to my mother's children.

10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; \*  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

11 I humbled myself with fasting, \* but that was turned to my reproach.

12 I put on sack-cloth also, \* and became a byword among them.

13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, \*  
and the drunkards make songs about me.

14 But as for me, this is my prayer to you, \*  
at the time you have set, O Lord:

15 "In your great mercy, O God, \* answer me with your unfailing help.

16 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

17 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.

18 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me."

19 "Hide not your face from your servant; \*  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

20 Draw near to me and redeem me; \* because of my enemies deliver me.

21 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; \*  
my adversaries are all in your sight."

22 Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed; \*  
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,  
for comforters, but I could find no one.

23 They gave me gall to eat, \*  
and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

31 As for me, I am afflicted and in pain; \*  
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.

32 I will praise the Name of God in song; \*  
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.

33 This will please the Lord more than an offering of oxen, \*  
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.

34 The afflicted shall see and be glad; \*  
you who seek God, your heart shall live.

35 For the Lord listens to the needy, \*  
and his prisoners he does not despise.

36 Let the heavens and the earth praise him, \*  
the seas and all that moves in them;

37 For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; \*  
they shall live there and have it in possession.

38 The children of his servants will inherit it, \*  
and those who love his Name will dwell therein.

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 Lessons**

### **First Reading:**

*Reader:* A reading from Exodus (1:6-22)

6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers, and that whole generation. 7 But the Israelites were fruitful and prolific; they multiplied and grew exceedingly strong, so that the land was filled with them.

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 ‘When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.’ 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?’ 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ 20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, ‘Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.’

Here ends the reading.

*read in unison*

**Canticle 10 The Second Song of Isaiah** *Quaerite Dominum Isaiah 55:6-11*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \*

call upon him when he draws near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways \*

and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \*

and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \*

nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, \*

so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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 Gospel**

A reading from the Gospel of Mark (8:27-9:1)

27 Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ 28 And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ 29 He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ 30 And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38 'Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.' 1 And he said to them, 'Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.'

Here ends the reading.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**BCP 96**

*All say 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**

**BCP 97**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

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.

## **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 Collects**

### **The Collects of the Day**

*Lent 4*

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Together*

### **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **For People Facing Uncertainty**

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. *Amen.* (edited excerpt From: "A New Zealand Prayer Book.")

*The Officiant says*

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession at this time.

*(During the silence people may add their own prayers.)*

*The Officiant concludes with the Collect for Mission*

### **A Collect for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **The General Thanksgiving**

**BCP 101**

*The Officiant and People say 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.

## **Dismissal**

*Deacon or Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **Concluding Sentence**

**BCP 102**