Welcome to Morning Prayer with the people of the Green Mountain Online Abbey.

A few notes about today's service. Please leave your microphone on mute during the responsory portions of the service. You are welcome to unmute yourself when you are invited to offer your prayers, then remember to mute it again when you have completed your prayer.

We will always read the Gospel appointed for the day so that we can read and meditate on Jesus' words and teaching.

MORNING PRAYER

September 24, 2020
Thursday of Ordinary Time, Proper 20
Anna Ellison Butler Alexander 1947
Opening Sentence

*The Officiant says the following*

Thus says the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy,” I dwell in the high and holy place and also with the one who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite.” *Isaiah 57:15*

Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant*  O God, open our lips.
*People*  And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*All*  Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

*Officiant*  God ever reigns on high:
*People*  Come let us worship.

*read in unison* Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Holy One; *
   let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving, *
   and raise a loud shout with psalms.

For you, O God, are a great God; *
   you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *  
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

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

*Officiant* God ever reigns on high:  
*People* Come let us worship.

**Psalms Appointed**

*read in unison Psalm 116 and 117*
Psalm 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*
1 I love you, O God, because you have heard the voice of my supplication, *  
because you have inclined your ear to me whenever I called upon you.

2 The cords of death entangled me;  
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *  
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon your holy Name: *  
“O God, I pray you, save my life.”
4 Gracious are you and righteous; *
you are full of compassion.

5 You watch over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and you helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for God has treated you well.

7 For you, O God, have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of God, *
in the land of the living.

9 I believed, even when I said,
"I have been brought very low." *
In my distress I said, “No one can be trusted.”

10 How shall I repay God *
for all the good things done for me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation *
and call upon the Name of God.

12 I will fulfill my vows to God *
in the presence of all people.

13 Precious in your sight, O God, *
is the death of your servants.
14 O God, I am your servant; *
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and call upon your holy Name.

16 I will fulfill my vows to you *
in the presence of all your people,

17 In the courts of God’s house, *
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia!

Psalm 117 *Laudate Dominum*
1 Praise God, all you nations; *
laud the Most High, all you peoples.

2 For God’s loving-kindness toward us is great, *
and the faithfulness of God endures for ever. Alleluia!

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
The Lessons

First Reading

Reader: A reading from Acts 19:11-20

11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, 12 so that when the handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them. 13 Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.” 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. 15 But the evil spirit said to them in reply, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” 16 Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered them all, and so overwhelmed them that they fled out of the house naked and wounded. 17 When this became known to all residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, everyone was awestruck; and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. 18 Also many of those who became believers confessed and disclosed their practices. 19 A number of those who practiced magic collected their books and burned them publicly; when the value of these books was calculated, it was found to come to fifty thousand silver coins. 20 So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.

Here ends the reading.

read in unison Canticle A
A Song of Wisdom Sapientia liberavit Wisdom 10:15-19,20b-21

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors *
    a holy people and a blameless race.
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, *
    withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.

To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, *
    and led them by a marvelous way;
She was their shelter by day *
    and a blaze of stars by night.

She brought them across the Red Sea, *
    she led them through mighty waters;
But their enemies she swallowed in the waves *
    and speweded them out from the depths of the abyss.

And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name, *
    and praised with one voice your protecting hand;
For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute, *
    and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.

The Gospel


14 Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.
16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
    because he has anointed me
    to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
    and recovery of sight to the blind,
    to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” 23 He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” 24 And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except
Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Here ends the reading.

The Apostles' Creed

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

Officiant God 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
V. Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance;
R. govern and uphold us now and always.
V. Day by day we bless you
R. we praise your name forever.
V. O God, keep us without sin today;
R. have mercy on us, O God, have mercy.
V. Show us your love and mercy;
R. for we put our trust in you.
V. In you, O God, is our hope;
R. and we shall never hope in vain.

The Collects

The Collect of the Day

*Proper 20*
Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to
love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among
things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall
endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

O God, you called Anna Alexander as a deaconess in your Church
and sent her as teacher and evangelist to the people of Georgia:
Grant us the humility to go wherever you send and the wisdom
to teach the word of Christ to whomever we meet, that all may
come to the enlightenment which you intend for your people;
through Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior. Amen.

Together
A Collect for Guidance
O God, our Creator and Sustainer, 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 Savior. 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.

*The Officiant says*

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

(During the silence people may add their own prayers. *Please unmute yourself to share your prayer aloud. When you have completed your prayer, return the microphone to mute.* )

*The Officiant*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts and our nation; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and
confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your
good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony
around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Savior,
Amen.

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 Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

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.

Together A Collect of Dedication
Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon or Officiant       Let us bless God.
People                    To God be thanks forever.

Concluding Sentences

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

Commemoration
The first African American deaconess in The Episcopal Church, teacher and minister in southern Georgia, Anna Ellison Butler Alexander was born to recently emancipated slaves on Butler Plantation in MacIntosh County, Georgia, in 1865. She was the first African American set aside as a deaconess in The Episcopal Church in 1907. She founded Good Shepherd Church in rural Glynn County’s Pennick community, where she taught children to read—by tradition, from the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible—in a one-room schoolhouse. The school was later expanded to two rooms with a loft where Anna lived. She ministered in Pennick for 53 years, leaving a legacy of love and devotion still felt in Glynn County. Deaconess Alexander served in difficult times, however. The Diocese of Georgia segregated her congregations in 1907 and African American congregations were not invited to another diocesan convention until 1947. Similarly, it was only in 1970 that the General Convention officially recognized deaconesses as being in deacon’s orders. However, her witness—wearing the distinctive dress of a deaconess, traveling by foot from Brunswick through Darien to Pennick, showing care and love for all whom she met—represents the best in Christian witness.

—A Great Cloud of Witnesses, 2016, Church Publishing

Liturgy created with the following resources
Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, St. Helena Breviary and A New Zealand Prayer Book