



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VERMONT

Together in Christ...growing locally, serving globally

Welcome to Morning Prayer
with the Green Mountain Online Abbey
of the
Episcopal Diocese of Vermont.

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

Thursday, January 14, 2021

The Season of Epiphany

Richard Meux Benson, Priest, 1915

and Charles Gore, Bishop, 1932

Opening Sentence

The Officiant says the following

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O God, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant You laid the foundation of the earth

People and the heavens are the work of your hands.

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 Alleluia, Christ is shown forth in glory:

People O come, let us adore him, alleluia.

Said in unison **Venite** *Psalms 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 Alleluia, Christ is shown forth in glory:

People O come, let us adore him, alleluia.

Psalm Appointed

read in unison **Psalms 18:1-20** Part I *Diligam te, Domine.*

1 I love you, O God, my strength, *
my stronghold, my crag, and my haven,

2 My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, *
my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge;
you are worthy of praise.

3 I will call upon you, O God, *
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

4 The breakers of death rolled over me, *
and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.

5 The cords of hell entangled me, *
and the snares of death were set for me.

6 I called upon you, O God, in my distress; *
I cried out to you for help.

7 You heard my voice from your heavenly dwelling; *
my cry of anguish came to your ears.

8 The earth reeled and rocked; *
the roots of the mountains shook;
they reeled because of your anger.

9 Smoke rose from your nostrils
and a consuming fire out of your mouth; *
hot burning coals blazed forth from you.

10 You parted the heavens and came down *
with a storm cloud under your feet.

11 You mounted on cherubim and flew; *
you swooped on the wings of the wind.

12 You wrapped darkness about you; *
you made dark waters and thick clouds your pavilion.

13 From the brightness of your presence, through the clouds, *
burst hailstones and coals of fire.

14 O God, you thundered out of heaven; *
O Most High, you uttered your voice.

15 You loosed your arrows and scattered them; *
you hurled thunderbolts and routed them.

16 The beds of the seas were uncovered,
and the foundations of the world laid bare, *

at your battle cry, O God,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

17 You reached down from on high and grasped me; *
you drew me out of great waters.

18 You delivered me from my strong enemies
and from those who hated me; *
for they were too mighty for me.

19 They confronted me in the day of my disaster; *
but you were my support.

20 You brought me out into an open place; *
you rescued me because you delighted in me.

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 **Isaiah 41:17-29**

When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the Lord will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,

and the dry land springs of water.
I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,
so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Set forth your case, says the Lord;
bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.
Let them bring them, and tell us
what is to happen.
Tell us the former things, what they are,
so that we may consider them,
and that we may know their outcome;
or declare to us the things to come.
Tell us what is to come hereafter,
that we may know that you are gods;
do good, or do harm,
that we may be afraid and terrified.
You, indeed, are nothing
and your work is nothing at all;
whoever chooses you is an abomination.

I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name.
He shall trample on rulers as on mortar,
as the potter treads clay.
Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know,
and beforehand, so that we might say, 'He is right'?

There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed,
none who heard your words.
I first have declared it to Zion,
and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings.
But when I look there is no one;
among these there is no counsellor
who, when I ask, gives an answer.
No, they are all a delusion;
their works are nothing;
their images are empty wind.

Here ends the reading.

read in unison **Canticle 26**

A Song of God's Chosen One *Isaiah 11:1,2,3b-4a,6,9*

Refrain:

All The earth shall be full of the knowledge of our God.

1 Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse;
from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom:

2 The Spirit of YHWH Will rest on you--
a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of counsel and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and reverence for YHWH.

3 You will delight in obeying YHWH,
and you won't judge by appearances,
or make decisions by hearsay.

4 You will treat poor people with fairness
and will uphold the rights of the land's
downtrodden.

With a single word you will stike down tyrants;
with your decrees you will execute evil people.
5 Justice will be the belt around this your waist-
faithfulness will gird you up.
6 Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the lion cub will graze together,
and a little child will lead them.
7 The cow will feed with the bear;
their young will lie down together.
The lion will eat hay like the ox.
8 The baby will play next to the den of the cobra,
and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest.
9 There will be no harm, no destruction
anywhere in my holy mountain;
for as water fills the sea,
so the land will be filled with knowledge of YHWH.

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

Refrain:

All The earth shall be full of the knowledge of our God.

The Gospel

Reader: A reading from the **Gospel of Mark 2:1-12**

When he 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!'

Here ends the reading.

A moment of silence is observed so that we may reflect on the teachings and ministry of Jesus.

The Apostle's Creed

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 Believing the promises of God, as our Savior taught us, we pray

Officiant and People **An alternative Lord's Prayer**

Our loving God in heaven,
holy is your Name,
may your reign 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 all creation, 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

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.*

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.*

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.

Together

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 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 rejoice in the gift of this new day, once again
we offer ourselves to you. May the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless God.

People To God be thanks forever.

The Officiant ends with a 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

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 70 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.

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 Church Publishing

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