



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

***Saturday, January 16, 2021***

***The Season of Epiphany***

## **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** *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* Alleluia, Christ is shown forth in glory:

*People* O come, let us adore him, alleluia.

### **Psalms Appointed**

*read in unison* **Psalms 20 and 21:1-7**

*Psalm 20 Exaudiat te Dominus*

1 May the Most High answer you in the day of trouble, \*  
the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;

2 Send you help from the holy place \*  
and strengthen you out of Zion;

3 Remember all your offerings \*  
and accept your burnt sacrifice;

4 Grant you your heart's desire \*  
and prosper all your plans.

5 We will shout for joy at your victory  
and triumph in the Name of our God; \*  
may the Most High grant all your requests.

6 Now I know that God gives victory to the anointed one; \*  
out of the holy heaven God will answer,  
with a strong and victorious right hand.

7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, \*  
but we will call upon the Name of our God.

8 They collapse and fall down, \*  
but we will arise and stand upright.

9 O God, give victory to our sovereign, \*  
and answer us when we call.

Psalm 21 *Domine, in virtute tua*

1 The king rejoices in your strength, O God; \*  
how greatly he exults in your victory!

2 You have given him his heart's desire; \*  
you have not denied him the request of his lips.

3 For you meet him with blessings of prosperity \*  
and set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

4 He asked you for life, and you gave it to him: \*  
length of days, for ever and ever.

5 His honor is great, because of your victory; \*  
splendor and majesty have you bestowed upon him.

6 For you will give him everlasting felicity \*  
and will make him glad with the joy of your presence.

7 For the king puts his trust in God; \*  
because of the loving-kindness of the Most High, he will not fall.

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 43:1-13**

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';

bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,

whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,  
who are deaf, yet have ears!  
Let all the nations gather together,  
and let the peoples assemble.  
Who among them declared this,  
and foretold to us the former things?  
Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,  
and let them hear and say, 'It is true.'  
You are my witnesses, says the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.  
Before me no god was formed,  
nor shall there be any after me.  
I, I am the Lord,  
and besides me there is no savior.  
I declared and saved and proclaimed,  
when there was no strange god among you;  
and you are my witnesses, says the Lord.  
I am God, and also henceforth I am He;  
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;  
I work and who can hinder it?

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 2:23-3:6**

One sabbath he was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and

immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

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.*

*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.

*Liturgy created with the following resources*

*Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, Saint Helena Breviary and A New Zealand Prayer Book, Common Worship Times and Seasons*