



*A ministry and community of prayer of  
The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont*

Welcome to Morning Prayer

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

***Wednesday, April 14, 2021***

***Easter Season***

***Zenaida, Philonella, and Hermione, Unmercenary Physicians,  
c.100, c.117***

## **Opening Sentence**

*The Officiant says the following*

After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

*Acts 1.3*

## **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* Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed:

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

*Said in unison* **Christ our Passover** *Pascha nostrum*

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.  
Christ has been raised from the dead, \*  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
For since by a man came death, \*  
by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, \*  
so also in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

*Officiant* Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed:  
*People* O come, let us adore him, alleluia.

### **Psalm Appointed**

*read in unison* **Psalm 119:1-24** *Aleph Beati immaculati*

1 Happy are they whose way is blameless, \*  
who walk in your law, O God!

2 Happy are they who observe your decrees \*  
and seek you with all their hearts!

3 Who never do any wrong, \*  
but always walk in your ways.

4 You laid down your commandments, \*  
that we should fully keep them.

5 Oh, that my ways were made so direct \*  
that I might keep your statutes!

6 Then I should not be put to shame, \*  
when I regard all your commandments.

7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, \*  
when I have learned your righteous judgments.

8 I will keep your statutes; \*  
do not utterly forsake me.

Beth *In quo corrigit?*

9 How shall young ones cleanse their ways? \*  
By keeping to your words.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; \*  
let me not stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your promise in my heart, \*  
that I may not sin against you.

12 Blest are you, O God; \*  
instruct me in your statutes.

13 With my lips will I recite \*  
all the judgments of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your decrees \*  
than in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate on your commandments \*  
and give attention to your ways.

16 My delight is in your statutes; \*  
I will not forget your word.

Gimel *Retribuere servo tuo*

17 Deal bountifully with your servant, \*  
that I may live and keep your word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may see \*  
the wonders of your law.

19 I am a stranger here on earth; \*  
do not hide your commandments from me.

20 My soul is consumed at all times \*  
with longing for your judgments.

21 You have rebuked the insolent; \*  
cursed are they who stray from your commandments!

22 Turn from me shame and rebuke, \*  
for I have kept your decrees.

23 Even though rulers sit and plot against me, \*  
I will meditate on your statutes.

24 For your decrees are my delight, \*  
and they are my counselors.

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

## **The Lessons**

### **First Reading**

*Reader* A reading from **1 John 2:12-17**

I am writing to you, little children,  
because your sins are forgiven on account of his name.

I am writing to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I am writing to you, young people,  
because you have conquered the evil one.

I write to you, children,  
because you know the Father.

I write to you, fathers,  
because you know him who is from the beginning.

I write to you, young people,  
because you are strong  
and the word of God abides in you,  
and you have overcome the evil one.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. The love of the Father is not in those who love the world; for all that is in the world—the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eyes, the pride in riches—comes not from the Father but from the world. And the world and its desire are passing away, but those who do the will of God live for ever.

Here ends the reading.

*read in unison* **A Song of Ezekiel** *Ezekiel 36:24-28*

I will take you out of the nations \*  
and gather you from every land, and bring you to your own  
soil.

I will sprinkle clean water over you,  
and you shall be clean from all that defiles you; \*  
I will cleanse you from the taint of all your idols.

I will give you a new heart \*  
and put a new spirit within you;  
I will take the heart of stone from your body \* and give you a  
heart of flesh.  
I will put my spirit into you  
and make you conform to my statutes; \*  
you shall keep my laws and live by them.  
You shall live in the land which I gave to your ancestors; \*  
you shall be my people,  
and I will be your God.

## **The Gospel**

*Reader:* A reading from the Gospel of **John 17:20-26**

‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

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**

#### *Presider 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. Help us, O God our Savior;  
R. Deliver us and forgive us our sins.  
V. Look upon your congregation;  
R. Give to your people the blessing of peace.  
V. Declare your glory among the nations;  
R. And your wonders among all peoples.  
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;  
R. Never forget the lives of your poor.  
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;  
R. And your favor to those who are true of heart.  
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;  
R. So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.

### **The Collects**

#### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Merciful God, whose most dear Son came to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons, and preach the gospel to the poor; Teach us by the example of your servants, Zenaida, Philonella, and Hermione to freely give even as we have freely received; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *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.*

*Together*

**For Social Justice**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *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.

### **Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us bless God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*People* To God be thanks forever. Alleluia, Alleluia.

### *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**

Zenaida, Philonella, and Hermione were three early Christian women who are commemorated in the Orthodox Church as the first “unmercenary physicians”- Christian medical doctors who offered their skill to everyone and refused to accept payment. According to Orthodox tradition, Zenaida and Philonella were sisters, born into a well-educated and wealthy Jewish family in the city of Tarsus. They were baptized by their brother Jason after his conversion and ordination as a priest. Both sisters were said to be well-educated in philosophy and medicine, but were unable to find employment in either field in an age when both professions were controlled by men. Therefore, they built a chapel, two cells, and a medical clinic on the outskirts of the city of Thessaly, where they devoted themselves to treating all who came to them regardless of their ability to pay, and refused to accept money for their services. Philonella was particularly skilled in experimental treatments, and Zenaida specialized in pediatric medicine and the treatment of psychological disorders, particularly depression. Zenaida became particularly renowned as a spiritual director as well as a physician. Three of her male

disciples founded a monastery a short distance away from the sisters. Varying accounts are given of their death, with one tradition relating that they were martyred, and others relating that they continued in their ministry until dying peacefully of old age. Hermione is the third woman to be given the title of “unmercenary physician.” She is reported to be one of the daughters of Philip the Deacon (Acts 6). After studying medicine in Caesarea, she went to Ephesus in the hopes of meeting the Apostle John, but he found that had already died. She therefore used her income to open up a medical clinic, with the help of her younger sister Eukhidia. Eventually, she expanded the clinic into a residential facility to allow for more extended treatment. Orthodox Christians believe that this was the first example of a Christian hospital, and it became the inspiration for later developments in Christian medical care, particularly in the Christian East.

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 Church Publishing

*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*