



*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

***Thursday, May 6, 2021  
Easter Season***

## **Opening Sentence**

*The Officiant says the following*

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being.

*1 Corinthians 15.20,21*

## **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 shown forth in glory:

*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 71** *In te, Domine, speravi*

1 In you, O God, have I taken refuge; \*  
let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; \*  
incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; \*  
you are my crag and my stronghold.

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, \*  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O God, \*  
my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;  
from my mother's womb you have been my strength; \*  
my praise shall be always of you.

7 I have become a portent to many, \*  
but you are my refuge and my strength.

8 Let my mouth be full of your praise \*  
and your glory all the day long.

9 Do not cast me off in my old age; \*  
forsake me not when my strength fails.

10 For my enemies are talking against me, \*  
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.

11 They say that God has forsaken me,  
that they may pursue and seize me \*  
because there is none who will save.

12 O God, be not far from me; \*  
come quickly to help me, O my God.

13 Let those who set themselves against me be put to shame and  
be disgraced; \*  
let those who seek to do me evil be covered with scorn and re-  
proach.

14 But I shall always wait in patience, \*  
and shall praise you more and more.

15 My mouth shall recount your mighty acts and saving deeds  
all day long, \*  
though I cannot know the number of them.

16 I will begin with your mighty works, O God; \*

I will recall your righteousness, yours alone.

17 O God, you have taught me since I was young, \*  
and to this day I tell of your wonderful works.

18 And now that I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, \*  
till I make known your strength to this generation  
and your power to all who are to come.

19 Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; \*  
you have done great things;  
who is like you, O God?

20 You have shown me great troubles and adversities, \*  
but you will restore my life  
and bring me up again from the deep places of the earth.

21 You strengthen me more and more; \*  
you enfold and comfort me,

22 Therefore I will praise you upon the lyre for your faithfulness, O my God; \*  
I will sing to you with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.

23 My lips will sing with joy when I play to you, \*  
and so will my soul, which you have redeemed.

24 My tongue will proclaim your righteousness all day long, \*  
for they are ashamed and disgraced who sought to do me harm.

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 Paul's letter to the **Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.’  
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Here ends the reading.

*read in unison* **A Song of Christ’s Humility** *Philippians 2:6-11*

Though in the form of God, \*  
Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,  
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, \*  
and was born in human likeness.  
Being found in human form, he humbled himself \*  
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.  
Therefore, God has highly exalted him \*  
and given him the name above every name,  
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, \*  
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, \*  
to the glory of God the Father.

## **The Gospel**

*Reader:* A reading from the Gospel of **Luke 8:26-39**

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me’ — for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had

seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for 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 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**

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *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 un-mute 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.



*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*