



*A ministry and community of prayer 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

November 22, 2021

Monday of Ordinary Time, Proper 29

C.S. Lewis, Apologist and Spiritual Writer, 1963

Opening Sentence

The Officiant says the following

Keep on praying and guard your prayers with thanksgiving.

Colossians 4:2

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 Our God orders all things well:

People Come, let us worship.

Said in unison **Jubilate** *Psalm 100*

May all lands be joyful before you, O God, *

serve with gladness

and come before your presence with a song.

For we know that you are God; *

you yourself have made us, and we are yours;

we are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

We shall enter your gates with thanksgiving,

go into your courts with praise, *
give thanks to you and call upon your Name.

For you are good; your mercy is everlasting; *
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Officiant Our God orders all things well:

People Come, let us worship.

Psalm Appointed

Psalm 106:1-8 Part I *Confitemini Domino*

1 Alleluia! Give thanks, for the Holy One is good; *
God's mercy endures for ever.

2 Who can declare the mighty acts of God *
or show forth rightful praise?

3 Happy are they who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

4 Remember me, O God, with the favor you have for your people,
*
and visit me with your saving help;

5 That I may see the prosperity of your elect
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

6 We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

7 In Egypt they did not consider your marvelous works,
nor remember the abundance of your love; *
they defied you, O Most High, at the Red Sea.

8 But you saved them for your Name's sake, *
to make your power known.

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 the **First Letter of Peter 1:1-12**

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia,
Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God
the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus
Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood:

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his
great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an
inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in
heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God
through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last

time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look!

Here ends the reading.

read in unison **Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah** *Ecce, Deus Isaiah*
12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; *

I will trust and will not be afraid,

For God is my strength and my might *

and will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing

from the springs of salvation, *
and on that day you shall say,
Give thanks and call upon God's name;
Make known God's deeds among the peoples; *
proclaim that God's name is exalted;
Sing praises to the Most High who has done great things; *
let this be known in all the world.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, *
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God*
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

The Gospel

Reader A reading from the Gospel of **Matthew 19:1-12**

When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went to the region of Judea beyond the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he cured them there.

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female", and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' They said to him, 'Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?' He said to them, 'It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but at the beginning it was not so. And I say

to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries another commits adultery.’

His disciples said to him, ‘If such is the case of a man with his wife, it is better not to marry.’ But he said to them, ‘Not everyone can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is given. For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let anyone accept this who can.’

Here ends the reading.

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

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.

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. 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

Proper 29

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O God of searing truth and surpassing beauty, we give you thanks for Clive Staples Lewis, whose sanctified imagination lights fires of faith in young and old alike; Surprise us also with your joy and draw us into that new and abundant life which is ours in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 move forward 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 discernment for the future of the Diocese of Vermont

Gracious and loving God, of transformation and discovery, we give thanks that you call us to be your people in this time, and in this place. As you call us into deeper and uncertain waters, “to step out of the boat and go closer to Jesus,” we give thanks for the experience, gifts and skills of our diocesan household, represented by the Task Force for Hope, Revitalization, Innovation, Vision, and Efficiency (THRIVE). Bless their efforts as they rally and shepherd us in our common work. We pray for open hearts and minds and for clear vision, and never-ending reliance on your abundant and creative goodness. We pray for inspiration and

guidance from your Holy Spirit, knowing that your power working in us can accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine. All this, we pray, in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

Together

For dismantling racism

Creator of the Universe, source of all goodness and love, we ask wisdom, help, and guidance as we work to counter the many instances of injustice and racism in our world. Help us to value differences in culture, religious beliefs, and physical appearance, and celebrate the God-made wonder of every human being. Help us to be vigilant, working against racial and social injustice in our own hearts and in the world around us, that we may live into our baptismal covenant to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.” 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, of boundless mercy,
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 Savior 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 best vision,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *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

“You must make your choice,” C. S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*. “Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up as a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon, or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.” Lewis did not always believe this. Born in Belfast on November 29th, 1898, Lewis was raised as an Anglican but rejected Christianity during his adolescent years. After serving in World War I, he started a long academic career as a scholar in medieval and renaissance literature at both Oxford and Cambridge. He also began an inner journey that led him from atheism to agnosticism to theism and finally to faith in Jesus Christ. “Really, a young Atheist cannot guard his faith too carefully,” he later wrote of his conversion to theism in *Surprised by Joy*. “Dangers lie in wait for him on every side...Amiable agnostics will talk cheerfully about ‘man’s search for God’. To me,

as I then was, they might as well have talked about the mouse's search for the cat. You must picture me all alone in that room at Magdalen, night after night, feeling, whenever my mind lifted even for a second from my work, the steady, unrelenting approach of Him whom I so earnestly desired not to meet. That which I greatly feared had at last come upon me. In the Trinity Term of 1929 I gave in, and admitted that God was God, and knelt and prayed: perhaps, that night, the most dejected and reluctant convert in all England." Two years later, his conversion was completed: "I know very well when, but hardly how, the final step was taken. I was driven to Whipsnade one sunny morning. When we set out, I did not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and when we reached the zoo, I did." Lewis's conversion inaugurated a wonderful outpouring of Christian apologetics in media as varied as popular theology, children's literature, fantasy and science fiction, and correspondence on spiritual matters with friends and strangers alike. In 1956 Lewis married Joy Davidman, a recent convert to Christianity. Her death four years later led him to a transforming encounter with the Mystery of which he had written so eloquently before. Lewis died at his home in Oxford on November 22nd, 1963. The inscription on his grave reads: "Men must endure their going hence".

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 Church Publishing

Liturgy created with the following resources:

Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, Saint Helena Breviary, A New Zealand Prayer Book and The Inclusive Bible, For Times of Transition - Joseph P. Shadle, For dismantling racism - Peggy Bonesteel and the prayer team of St. James Episcopal Church, Essex Jct., VT