



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

A few notes about tonight'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.

*A Service Dedicated to Racial Healing*

## An Order for Evening Prayer

*The Officiant begins*

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15, 16*

*The Officiant then says*  
Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence is kept.*  
*Officiant and People*

Almighty God,  
We have sinned against you,  
through our own fault,  
in thought, and word, and deed,  
and in what we have left undone.  
For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
forgive us all our offenses;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

*Officiant*

### **Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

*A deacon or lay person using the preceding form substitutes “us” for “you” and “our” for “your.”*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*The Officiant then says*

O God, be not far from us.

*People* Come quickly to help us, O God.

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

## **O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron*



O Gracious  
Light.mov

*Or*

## **Light of the World** *Phos hilaron*

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,  
Mirror of God's eternal face,  
Transparent flame of love's free duty,  
You bring salvation to our race.  
Now, as we see the lights of evening,  
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;  
Worthy are you of endless blessing,  
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.

*Then follows*

### *Evening Psalm Antiphon*

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

### **Psalm 141:1-3,8ab** *Domine, clamavi*

O God, I call to you; come to me quickly; \*  
hear my voice when I cry to you.  
Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, \*  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth,  
O God, and guard the door of my lips; \*  
let not my heart incline to any evil thing.  
But my eyes are turned to you, O God; \*  
in you I take refuge

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Glory 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 Letter to the Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-- who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented-- of whom

the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

*After the Readings, the Reader says*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**The Song of Simeon** *Nunc dimittis Luke 2:29-32*

O God, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

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

## **Second Reading**

*Reader:* A reading from the Gospel of **Luke 12:49-56**

Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what

stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son  
and son against father,  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

*After the Readings, the Reader says*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*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* **B**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,  
*We entreat you, O God.*

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,  
*We entreat you, O God.*

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,  
*We entreat you, O God.*

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,  
*We entreat you, O God.*

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be  
condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,  
*We entreat you, O God.*

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion  
of [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life  
to Christ,  
*We entreat you, O God.*

**The Collects**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*The Collect of the Day*

*Proper 15*

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Keep watch, dear God, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

*Together*

***For dismantling racism***

Almighty God,

Help us, to recognize the gravity of racial injustice,

Shake us from our ignorance and open our eyes, O Christ.

When out of fear we are frozen into inaction,

Give us a spirit of bravery, O Christ.

When we think we are trying our best, but say the wrong things,

Give us a spirit of humility, O Christ.

When we feel separated from each other,

Give us a lasting spirit of solidarity, O Christ.

When it becomes easier to point fingers outward,

Help us to examine our own hearts, O Christ..

God of truth, in your wisdom, Enlighten Us.

God of love, in your mercy, Forgive Us.

God of hope in your kindness, Heal Us.

Creator of All People, in your generosity, Guide Us.  
All this we pray in the unity of the One Holy and Undivided  
Trinity. *Amen.*

*Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.*  
***Please unmute yourself if you wish to share your prayer aloud.***  
***Remember to return your microphone to mute when you have  
completed your prayer.***

*The Officiant offers one or more concluding collects*

O God,  
it is your will to hold both heaven and earth  
in a single peace.  
Let the design of your great love  
shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows,  
and give peace to your Church,  
peace among nations,  
peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts. *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.

*From Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost "Alleluia, alleluia" may be added to the preceding versicle and response.*

### **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, A New Zealand Prayer Book  
and The Inclusive Bible, Adapted from <https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/racism/>*