



*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 11:1-3, 8-16**
Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old-- and Sarah herself was barren-- because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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 12:32-40**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

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 14

Grant to us, O God, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those
things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by
you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our
Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and 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/>