



*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.***

We will always read the Gospel appointed for the day so that we can
read and meditate on Jesus' words and teaching.

MORNING PRAYER

Saturday, June 3, 2023

The Week of Pentecost

The Martyrs of Uganda, 1886

Opening Sentence

The Officiant says the following

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous person is powerful in what it can achieve. *James 5:16*

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 God is the Source to whom all things return:

People Come let us worship.

read in unison **Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Holy One; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving, *

and raise a loud shout with psalms.

For you, O God, are a great God; *

you are great above all gods.
In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, *
and kneel before God, our Maker,
For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and
the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Officiant God is the Source to whom all things return:
People Come let us worship.

Psalms Appointed

In Unison or responsively by whole or half verse

Psalms 30 and 32

Psalm 30 *Exaltabo te, Domine*

1 I will exalt you, O God,
because you have lifted me up *
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 O my God, I cried out to you, *
and you restored me to health.

3 You brought me up, O God, from the dead; *
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

4 Sing to God, you servants of God, *
and give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.

5 For divine wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, *
divine favor for a lifetime.

6 Weeping may spend the night, *
but joy comes in the morning.

7 While I felt secure, I said,
“I shall never be disturbed.

*

You, O God, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.”

8 Then you hid your face, *
and I was filled with fear.

9 I cried to you, O God; *
I pleaded with you, saying,

10 “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit? *
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

11 Hear, O God, and have mercy upon me; *
O God, be my helper.”

12 You have turned my wailing into dancing; *
you have put off my sack-cloth and clothed me with joy.

13 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; *
O God, my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

Psalm 32 *Beati quorum*

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven *
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom God imputes no guilt *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you *
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God;" *
then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of
trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding, *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked, *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Most High.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in God; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

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 second letter to the Corinthians**
4:13-5:10

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—‘I believed, and so I spoke’—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling— if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who

has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

Reader Here ends the reading.

read in unison ***Canticle N A Song of God's Love 1 John 4:7-11***

Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us * and
sent his Son that sins might be forgiven. Beloved, since God loved us
so much, *

we ought also to love one another.

For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.

The Gospel

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of **Luke 16:19-31**

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger

with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us." He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment." Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them." He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." ' "

Reader 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

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

Together

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

Officiant

Grant, O God, that the course of this world may be peaceably governed by your providence; and that your Church may joyfully serve you in confidence and serenity; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

O God, by whose providence the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church: Grant that we who remember before you the blessed martyrs of Uganda, may, like them, be steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ, to whom they gave obedience, even to death, and by their

sacrifice brought forth a plentiful harvest; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and 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

Giver of the present, hope for the future:
save us from the time of trial.

When prophets warn us of doom,
of catastrophe and of suffering beyond belief,
then, God, free us from our helplessness,
and deliver us from evil.

Save us from our arrogance and folly,
for you are God who created the world;
you have redeemed us and you are our salvation. *Amen.*

Together

A Collect for Racial Healing

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.

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

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.

Together **A Collect of Dedication**

Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir
us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Dismissal

Deacon or Officiant Let us bless God.

People To God be thanks forever.

Concluding Sentences

Officiant

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

On June 3rd, 1886, thirty-two young men, pages of the court of King Mwanga of Buganda, were burned to death at Namugongo for their refusal to renounce Christianity. In the following months many other Christians throughout the country died by fire or spear for their faith. These martyrdoms totally changed the dynamic of Christian growth in Uganda. Introduced by a handful of Anglican and Roman Catholic missionaries after 1877, the Christian faith had been preached only to the immediate members of the court, by order of King Mutesa. His successor, Mwanga, became

increasingly angry as he realized that the first converts put loyalty to Christ above the traditional loyalty to the king. Martyrdoms began in 1885. Mwanga first forbade anyone to go near a Christian mission on pain of death, but finding himself unable to cool the ardor of the converts, resolved to wipe out Christianity. The Namugongo martyrdoms produced a result entirely opposite to Mwanga's intentions. The example of these martyrs, who walked to their death singing hymns and praying for their enemies, so inspired many of the bystanders that they began to seek instruction from the remaining Christians. Within a few years the original handful of converts had multiplied many times and spread far beyond the court. The martyrs had left the indelible impression that Christianity was truly African, not simply a white man's religion. Most of the missionary work was carried out by Africans rather than by white missionaries, and Christianity spread steadily. Renewed persecution of Christians by a Muslim military dictatorship in the 1970s proved the vitality of the example of the Namugongo martyrs. Among the thousands of new martyrs, both Anglican and Roman Catholic, was Janani Luwum, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Uganda, whose courageous ministry and death inspired not only his countrymen but also Christians throughout the world.

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