



*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

Friday, May 26, 2023
Easter Season

***Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury,
605***

Opening Sentence

The Officiant says the following

After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

Acts 1.3

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 risen indeed:

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

Psalm 102 *Domine, exaudi*

1 O God, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; *
hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.

2 Incline your ear to me; *
when I call, make haste to answer me,

3 For my days drift away like smoke, *
and my bones are hot as burning coals.

4 My heart is smitten like grass and withered, *
so that I forget to eat my bread.

5 Because of the voice of my groaning, *
I am but skin and bones.

6 I have become like a vulture in the wilderness, *
like an owl among the ruins.

7 I lie awake and groan; *
I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.

8 My enemies revile me all day long, *
and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.

9 For I have eaten ashes for bread *
and mingled my drink with weeping.

10 Because of your indignation and wrath, *
you have lifted me up and thrown me away.

11 My days pass away like a shadow, *
and I wither like the grass.

12 But you, O God, endure for ever, *
and your Name from age to age.

13 You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to have mercy; *
indeed, the appointed time has come.

14 For your servants love its very rubble *
and are moved to pity even for its dust.

15 The nations shall fear your Name, O God, *
and all the rulers of the earth your glory.

16 You, O God, will build up Zion, *
and your glory will appear.

17 You will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless *
and will not despise their plea.

18 Let this be written for a future generation, *
so that a people yet unborn may praise you, O God.

19 For you looked down from your holy place on high; *
from the heavens you beheld the earth,

20 That you might hear the groan of the captive *
and set free those condemned to die,

21 That they may declare in Zion your Name, O God, *
and your praise in Jerusalem,

22 When the peoples are gathered together *
and the nations also, to serve you.

23 You have brought down my strength before my time; *
you have shortened the number of my days.

24 And I said, "O my God,
do not take me away in the midst of my days; *
your years endure throughout all generations.

25 In the beginning, O God, you laid the foundations of the
earth, *

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

26 They shall perish, but you will endure;
they all shall wear out like a garment; *
as clothing you will change them,
and they shall be changed,

27 But you are always the same, *
and your years will never end.

28 The children of your servants shall continue, *
and their offspring shall stand fast in your sight.”

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 letter to the Hebrews 8:1-13**

Now the main point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent that the Lord, and not any mortal, has set up. For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are priests who offer gifts according to the law. They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and

shadow of the heavenly one; for Moses, when he was about to erect the tent, was warned, 'See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.' But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted through better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need to look for a second one.

God finds fault with them when he says:

'The days are surely coming, says the Lord,
when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel
and with the house of Judah;

not like the covenant that I made with their ancestors,
on the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out
of the land of Egypt;

for they did not continue in my covenant,
and so I had no concern for them, says the Lord.

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel
after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their minds,
and write them on their hearts,

and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

And they shall not teach one another
or say to each other, "Know the Lord",

for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest.

For I will be merciful towards their iniquities,
and I will remember their sins no more.'

In speaking of 'a new covenant', he has made the first one obsolete. And what is obsolete and growing old will soon disappear.

Here ends the reading.

read in unison **A Song of Ezekiel** *Ezekiel 36:24-28*

I will take you out of the nations *
and gather you from every land, and bring you to your own soil.

I will sprinkle clean water over you,
and you shall be clean from all that defiles you; *
I will cleanse you from the taint of all your idols.

I will give you a new heart *
and put a new spirit within you;

I will take the heart of stone from your body *
and give you a heart of flesh.

I will put my spirit into you
and make you conform to my statutes; *
you shall keep my laws and live by them.

You shall live in the land which I gave to your ancestors; *
you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The Gospel

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of **Luke 10:38-42**

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha,

Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

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. 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

Officiant

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not

leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

O God, who by your Son Jesus Christ called your servant Augustine to preach the Gospel to the English people: We pray that all whom you call and send may do your will, bide your time, and see your glory; through the same 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

For 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, 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 Let us bless God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People To God be thanks forever. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Officiant ends with a Concluding Sentence

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

Although Christianity had existed in Britain before the invasions of Angles and Saxons in the 5th century, Pope Gregory the Great decided in 596 to send a mission to the pagan Anglo-Saxons. He selected, from his own monastery on the Coelian hill in Rome, a group of monks, led by their prior, Augustine. They arrived in Kent in 597, carrying a silver cross and an image of Jesus Christ painted on a board, which thus became, so far as we know, “Canterbury’s first icon.” King Ethelbert tolerated their presence and allowed them the use of an old church built on the east side of Canterbury, dating from the Roman occupation of Britain. Here, says Bede, they assembled “to sing the psalms, to pray, to say Mass, to preach, and to baptize.” This church of St. Martin is the earliest place of Christian worship in England still in use. Probably in 601, Ethelbert was converted, thus becoming the first Christian king in England. About the same time, Augustine was ordained bishop somewhere in France and named “Archbishop of the English Nation.” Thus, the see of Canterbury and its Cathedral Church of Christ owe their establishment to Augustine’s mission, as does the nearby Abbey of Saints Peter and Paul, later

re-named for Augustine. The “chair of St. Augustine” in Canterbury Cathedral, however, dates from the thirteenth century. Some correspondence between Augustine and Gregory survives. One of the Pope’s most famous counsels to the first Archbishop of Canterbury has to do with diversity in the young English church. Gregory writes, “If you have found customs, whether in the Roman, Gallican, or any other churches that may be more acceptable to God, I wish you to make a careful selection of them, and teach the church of the English, which is still young in the faith, whatever you can profitably learn from the various churches. For things should not be loved for the sake of places, but places for the sake of good things.” This counsel bears on the search for Christian “unity in diversity” of the ecumenical movement of today. Augustine died on May 26th, probably in 605.

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 Church Publishing

Liturgy created with the following resources: Book of Common Prayer, Enriching Our Worship, and Saint Helena Breviary