



*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

*Thursday November 23, 2023
Proper 28 - Thanksgiving Day*

Opening Sentence

The Officiant says the following

We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, calling upon your Name

and declaring all your wonderful deeds. *Psalm 75:1*

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 This is the day that God has made:

People We will rejoice and be glad in it.

read in unison Psalm 67:1-5 Deus misereatur

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, *

show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *

your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *

let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *

for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *

let all the peoples praise you.

Officiant This is the day that God has made:

People We will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Psalms Appointed - Psalms 145

Read in unison or responsively by whole verse

1 I will exalt you, O holy God, *

and bless your Name for ever and ever.

2 Every day will I bless you *
and praise your Name for ever and ever.

3 Great are you, O God, and greatly to be praised; *
there is no end to your greatness.

4 One generation shall praise your works to another *
and shall declare your power.

5 I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *
and all your marvelous works.

6 They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *
and I will tell of your greatness.

7 They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

8 You are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 You are loving to everyone, *
and your compassion is over all your works.

10 All your works praise you, O God, *
and your faithful servants bless you.

11 They make known the glory of your realm *
and speak of your power,

12 That the peoples may know of your power *
and the glorious splendor of your dominion.

13 Yours, O God, is an everlasting reign; *

your dominion endures throughout all ages.

14 You are faithful in all your words *
and merciful in all your deeds.

15 You uphold all those who fall; *
you lift up those who are bowed down.

16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O God, *
and you give them their food in due season.

17 You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

18 You are righteous in all your ways *
and loving in all your works.

19 You are near to those who call upon you, *
to all who call upon you faithfully.

20 You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; *
you hear their cry and help them.

21 You preserve all those who love you, *
but you destroy all the wicked.

22 My mouth shall speak your praise, O God; *
let all flesh bless your holy Name for ever and ever.

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

First Reading

Reader A reading from Joel 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

*Reader Here ends the reading.
A moment of silence is kept after the reading.*

The Song of Zechariah *In Unison*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
 you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, *
 born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears, *
 and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship you without fear, *
holy and righteous before you,
all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
To give God's people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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 according to John 6:26-35

Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat." ' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.'

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Reader Here ends the reading.

A minute of silence is observed as we reflect on the teachings and ministry of Jesus.

An Affirmation of Faith - Together

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.

The Prayers

Officiant God be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

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 B

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

Officiant

Almighty and gracious God, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Together

Almighty God, source of all wisdom and understanding: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who will choose our next presiding bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for all of your people, equip us for our ministries, and proclaim your word to us and to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Together

Gracious God, Creator of the rich diversity of this world:
Give us eyes to see the beauty all around and protect the wonders of creation.
Give us courage to see the brokenness in our communities and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.
In all things enable us to follow you, who always seeks the lost, binds our wounds and sets us free.
In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

The Officiant says

I invite your prayers of thanksgiving and intercession at this time.

(During the silence please add your own prayers. Please unmute if you wish to be heard and remute when your prayer is complete.)

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

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them.
Heal us.

We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them.

Forgive us.

We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them.

Inspire us.

We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light.

Enlighten us.

We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again.

Renew us.

Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun.

Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *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 Let us bless God.

People To God be thanks forever.

Concluding Sentences *Officiant says one of the following*

May God light in us a holy fire: Light a fire that is worthy of our ancestors. Light a fire that is worthy of our children. Light a fire that is worthy of God. Now let us go in peace, lighting a holy fire wherever we go. *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, and select prayers from other denominations as appropriate.