



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

A few notes about our service:

The Green Mountain Online Abbey is a community of liturgical prayer that uses a range of resources approved by the Anglican communion and our Bishop. Within the liturgy, we offer intercessions on behalf of the community, the church, and the world. At some services, the leader will invite personal intercession, at which time you are welcome to unmute and offer your own biddings. Otherwise, please keep your microphone muted as you pray with the responder.

If you would like to add to our prayer list, please email Vicar adwoa Wilson at awilson@diovermont.org.

As an Abbey, we also offer formation in Scripture, Anglican tradition, and the spiritual life. With some occasional or seasonal omissions, these offerings occur on Saturday mornings for 30-60 minutes, immediately following 8:00 am prayer.

Welcome!

MORNING PRAYER

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Week 2 in Eastertide

Peter Williams Cassey

Deacon, 1917

and Anna Besant Cassey

1875

Opening Sentence

The Officiant says the following

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being.

1 Corinthians 15:20,21

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 forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant Alleluia, Christ is shown forth in glory:

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 18:1-20

Read responsively by whole verse

1 I love you, O God, my strength, *
my stronghold, my crag, and my haven,

2 My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, *
my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge;
you are worthy of praise.

3 I will call upon you, O God, *
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

4 The breakers of death rolled over me, *
and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.

5 The cords of hell entangled me, *
and the snares of death were set for me.

6 I called upon you, O God, in my distress; *

I cried out to you for help.

7 You heard my voice from your heavenly dwelling; *
my cry of anguish came to your ears.

8 The earth reeled and rocked; *
the roots of the mountains shook;
they reeled because of your anger.

9 Smoke rose from your nostrils
and a consuming fire out of your mouth; *
hot burning coals blazed forth from you.

10 You parted the heavens and came down *
with a storm cloud under your feet.

11 You mounted on cherubim and flew; *
you swooped on the wings of the wind.

12 You wrapped darkness about you; *
you made dark waters and thick clouds your pavilion.

13 From the brightness of your presence, through the clouds, *
burst hailstones and coals of fire.

14 O God, you thundered out of heaven; *
O Most High, you uttered your voice.

15 You loosed your arrows and scattered them; *
you hurled thunderbolts and routed them.

16 The beds of the seas were uncovered,
and the foundations of the world laid bare, *
at your battle cry, O God,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

17 You reached down from on high and grasped me; *
you drew me out of great waters.

18 You delivered me from my strong enemies
and from those who hated me; *
for they were too mighty for me.

19 They confronted me in the day of my disaster; *
but you were my support.

20 You brought me out into an open place; *
you rescued me because you delighted in me.

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

The Lessons

First Reading

Reader A reading from **Romans 6:15-23**

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that, if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you who were slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted and that you, having been set free from sin, have become enslaved to righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and lawlessness, leading to even more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been

freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Here ends the reading.

read in unison **A Song of Christ's Humility** *Philippians 2:6-11*

Though in the form of God, *
Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, *
and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself *
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him *
and given him the name above every name,
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, *
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, *
to the glory of God the Father.

The Gospel

Reader: A reading from the **Gospel of John 15:12-27**

‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

‘If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. Because

you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world—therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, “Servants are not greater than their master.” If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. It was to fulfil the word that is written in their law, “They hated me without a cause.”

‘When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

Here ends the reading.

A full minute of silence is observed so that we may reflect on the teachings and ministry of Jesus.

Affirmation of Faith

Together

We believe in one God, who is Creator,
maker of all we see and all we don't see;
Who is Ruler of the universe:
Source of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true man.
He is one with the Creator; the Word made flesh, our Messiah:
Savior of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,
Breath of God moving among us.
Who is one with Creator; one with Christ; our Comforter and our Guide:

Mentor of all creation!

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you

People And also with you.

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. 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

O God of justice and mercy, we remember before you your servants Peter Williams Cassey and Anna Besant Cassey, who, in the face of slavery and discrimination, gave the blessings of education and spiritual haven to the marginalized; Grant us to be fearless in the face of injustice and to work for blessings that will touch those whom the world does not count of value; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns 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, led by Responder

For People Facing Uncertainty

God of the present moment, God who in Jesus stills the storm and soothes the frantic heart; bring hope and courage to us all as we wait in uncertainty. Bring hope that you will make us the equal of whatever lies ahead. Bring us courage to endure what cannot be avoided, for your will is health and wholeness; you are God, and we need you. 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

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

Peter Williams Cassey was ordained as a deacon in 1866, the first person of color ordained in the Episcopal Church west of the Mississippi River. He was a fourth-generation freed African American. His great-grandfather bought his freedom and founded the first Black church in New York, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. His grandfather was the first African American Episcopal priest in New York and founder of St. Philip's, Manhattan. His parents, Joseph and Amy Cassey, were prominent abolitionists in Philadelphia.

Peter received the best classical education available at the time, learning to read Greek, Hebrew, and Latin fluently. Arriving in San Francisco in 1853, he worked as a barber and formed an abolitionist group to help free slaves. He helped organize a community association to protect African Americans

and other persons of color. In the late 1850s he moved to San José, California.

Peter married Anna Besant, who came from another prominent African American family. They were among the founding members of Trinity Parish, San José, California, in 1861. At the same time, they rented the former Bascom School for Girls and established St. Philip's Mission for Colored People and opened St. Philip's Academy. The school was not only for African Americans, but also for Native American, Mexican, and Chinese students because no children of color could attend public schools.

Bishop William Ingraham Kip, first Bishop of California, recognized St. Philip's as a mission congregation out of Trinity Church and in 1866 ordained Peter as a deacon. In 1872, Bishop Kip directed him to establish Christ Church for Colored People in San Francisco while Anna kept St. Philip's going. Later this church would split into the African American Church of St. Cyprian and Christ Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japanese American Episcopal Church). In 1881 Peter was called to St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in New Bern, North Carolina, as the first African American rector in that state. In 1884 he accepted a call to Florida where he served three parishes in succession until he died at the age of 86 on April 16, 1917. He was never ordained a priest because of the racism of the clergy and Standing Committees of the three dioceses in which he served, even though the bishops favored his ordination.

The Bishop of Florida, Edwin Gardner Weed, said at Peter's funeral that "no other clergyman in the diocese came close to the theological maturity and scholarship that Peter Williams Cassey exhibited in his ministry and teachings. We should be proud of these great souls that helped lay the foundations of this diocese."

—Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2022 Church Publishing

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

Worship Times and Seasons, Adapted from <https://www.gonzaga.edu/about/president-leadership/messagesmedia/2021/thoughts-and-prayers-daunte-wright-and-caron-nazario>