

Grace Episcopal Church
Wednesday Online Prayer Service
September 16, 2020



Call to Prayer

We enter quietly.

The service begins with sounding of a bell; when the bell is rung again the Celebrant will say;

Thanks be to you O God, that we have risen this day;

All respond We thank you for the daily resurrection of all life, seen and unseen.

The Celebrant then says

Beloved, love one another today, for love is of God, and whoever loves is
born of God;

**All respond Spirit of God, search our hearts today and show us both your forgiveness
and your love.**

Readings & Response

The psalm will be said by all; the Celebrant will begin by saying:

○ Lord, open our lips;

All respond **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Psalm | 145:1-8

I will exalt you, O God my King,
and bless your Name for ever and ever.

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

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
there is no end to his greatness.

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

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

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

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

**The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

A Reading from the Book of Jonah

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All respond Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Book of Philippians

Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All respond Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, According to Matthew (Glory to you, Lord Christ)

Matthew 20:1-6

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You

(Reading continues on the following page.)

also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

All Respond Praise to you, Lord Christ

Homily or Reflection

We respond with prayers. After each petition, there will be a short period of quiet.

Leader We pray for the world:

(Silently or aloud)

Consider prayers for the earth, and all God’s people; consider prayers for the hungry and poor.

All respond Creator of all, lead us and every people into the ways of justice and peace.

Leader We pray for our community:

(Silently or aloud)

Consider prayers for the earth, and all God’s people; consider prayers for the hungry and poor.

All respond Give grace to all whose lives are linked with ours. May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves.

Leader We pray for those in need:

(Silently or aloud)

Consider prayers for the earth, and all God's people; consider prayers for the hungry and poor.

All respond Make us willing agents of your compassion. Strengthen us as we share in making people whole.

The celebrant offers this or some other invitation to anointing

Jesus sent his disciples out into the world to lay hands on the sick, proclaiming God's healing love and forgiveness. We present ourselves, acknowledging our own frailty and need for God's healing love. We embody this love as we share in these prayers and extend our hands to one another.

Leader And so with the compassion you give us we can say:
 The peace of the Lord be with you!

All respond And also with you.

Dismissal

We have been blessed this day.

All respond Lord, let us now be a blessing to your world.