



# Grace Episcopal Church

## Wednesday Online Prayer Service

### October 21, 2020

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## 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:*

O Lord, open our lips;

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

## Psalm | 1

Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners,  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.

**It is not so with the wicked;  
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

## A Reading from the Book of Leviticus

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

*After the reading, the Reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All respond Thanks be to God.**

## **A Reading from the First Book of Thessalonians**

I Thessalonians 2:1-8

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

*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 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

*(Reading continues on the following page.)*

‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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**

Leader           We have been blessed this day.

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