



Grace Episcopal Church

Wednesday Online Prayer Service

January 13, 2021

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 | 139:1-5, 12-17

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**For you yourself created my inmost parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

**My body was not hidden from you,
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book;
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

**How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
how great is the sum of them!**

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

A Reading from First Samuel | 3:1-10 [11-20]

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [Then the Lord said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."]

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the Lord; let him do what seems good to him."

(reading continues on the next page)

As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.]

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All respond Thanks be to God.

A Reading from First Corinthians | 6:12-20

“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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 John (Glory to you, Lord Christ)

John 1:43-51

Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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.