



Grace Episcopal Church

Wednesday Online Prayer Service

April 28, 2021

Call to Prayer

We enter quietly.

The Officiant will say

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

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

The Officiant 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 Officiant will begin by saying:

O Lord, open our lips;

All respond And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Psalm | 22:24-30

My praise is of him in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:
"May your heart live for ever!"**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

**For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations.**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

**My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.**

They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.

First Reading | Acts 8:26-40

A reading from Acts.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

(reading continues on the next page)

He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All respond Thanks be to God.

Second Reading | I John 4:7-21

A reading from First John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved

(reading continues on the next page)

us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

After the reading, the Reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All respond Thanks be to God.

Gospel | John 15:1-8

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All respond Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless

(reading continues on the next page)

it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

All respond Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily or Reflection

We respond after the silence and before the people’s response.

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.

Leader We respond,

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

We respond after the silence and before the people’s response.

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.

Leader We respond,

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

We respond after the silence and before the people’s response.

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.

Leader We respond,

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

The officiant 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.

All are invited to name those to be included in prayers for healing, aloud or in chat.

Officiant Alleluia, with the compassion you give us we can say:
the peace of the Lord be with you!

All respond **And also with you, alleluia, alleluia!**

Dismissal

Leader We have been blessed this day.

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