



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ESSEX, NY

MORNING PRAYER
THE 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 23, 2023

Welcome to Morning Prayer
Morning and Evening Prayer are made up
of a few distinct parts:
The Gathering, the Psalter, the lessons
and responses, The Apostles' Creed, the
Prayers, and Hymns.

Loose Plate Offering
Rector's Discretionary Fund

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 379
(Crucifer and Officiant enter)

God is Love, let heav'n adore him:

**God is Love, let heav'n adore him,
God is Love, let earth rejoice;
Let creation sing before him
And exalt him with one voice.
God who laid the earth's foundation,
God who spread the heav'ns above,
God who breathes through all creation:
God is Love, eternal Love.**

**God is Love; and love enfolds us,
All the world in one embrace:
With unfailing grasp God hold us,
Ev'ry child of ev'ry race.
And when human hearts are breaking
Under sorrow's iron rod,
Then we find that selfsame aching
Deep within the heart of God.**

**God is Love; and though with blindness
Sin afflicts all human life,
God's eternal loving kindness
Guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
O'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
O'er the universe must reign.**

OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the House of the Lord."

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.

For sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways to the glory of your Name.

Āmen.

Officiant: Almighty God, have mercy on us; forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen us in all goodness; and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

People: Amen

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

ANTIPHON

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God:

Come let us adore him.

VENITE

Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Psalm 86:11-17

Inclina, Domine

Teach me your way, O Lord,*
and I will walk in your truth;

Knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name. I will thank you,
O Lord my God, with all my heart, *
and glorify your Name for evermore.

For great is your love toward me; *
you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.

The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a band of violent men seeks my life; *
they have not set you before their eyes.

But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me; *
**give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.**

Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; *
because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning and is now and will be for ever.
Amen.**

COLLECT

ALMIGHTY GOD, the fountain of all wisdom, you know our necessities before we ask and our ignorance in asking: Have compassion on our weakness, and mercifully give us those things which for our unworthiness we dare not, and for our blindness we cannot ask; through the worthiness of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it,
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear, or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE

Romans 8:12-25

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ-- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 13

A Song of Praise - Benedictus es, Domine Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers*
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name;*
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your Temple;*
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim;*
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths;*
in the high vault of heaven; glory to you.

Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;*
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

MEDITATION HYMN 596

**Judge Eternal, throned in splendor,
Lord of lords and King of kings,
with your living fire of judgment
purge this land of bitter things;
solace all its wide dominion
with the healing of your wings.**

**Still the weary folk are pining
for the hour that brings release,
and the city's crowded clangor
cries aloud for sin to cease,
and the homesteads and the woodlands
plead in silence for their peace.**

**Crown, O God, your own endeavor;
cleave our darkness with your sword;
feed the faithless and the hungry
with the richness of your word;
cleanse the body of this nation
through the glory of the Lord.**

THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

REFLECTION- Officiant (Please be seated)

Heavenly Father, Lord Christ and Holy Spirit, we pray for your divine presence and guidance through every aspect of our search process. Please grant us spiritual discernment, wisdom and joy as we humbly seek to accomplish your will for St. John's. Help us Lord to put aside the clamor and turmoil of our everyday lives as we prayerfully consider your desire for the future of this church family and the wider community around us. We understand Lord that this journey of faith may be long and at times challenging, but we also give thanks to you Lord for this opportunity to deepen our faith, to love one another, to grow our church family and to share the good news of your redemptive love throughout the greater community. Help us Lord to humbly listen to each other with open hearts and minds and to hear your voice in all our deliberations as we trust in your guidance throughout this search process. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM 593

**Lord, make us servants of your peace:
where there is hate, may we sow love;
where there is hurt, may we forgive;
where there is strife, may we make one.**

**Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;
where all is night, may we sow light;
where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek
to be consoled, but to console,
nor look to understanding hearts,
but look for hearts to understand.**

**May we not look for love's return,
but seek to love unselfishly,
for in our giving we receive,
and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**Dying, we live, and are reborn
through death's dark night to endless day;
Lord, make us servants of your peace,**

to wake at last in heaven's light.

DOXOLOGY 380, V.3

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you
People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.
Officiant and People

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

SUFFRAGE B

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthdays this week:

Diana Lawrence

Watch over our brothers and sisters, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up when they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM II

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop(s); for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people
Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray especially for: Jeff, Peggy, Bill, Cory, Eugene, Carolyn, Sarah, Lynne, Rae, Aaron, Matt, Geoffrey, Arthur, Anne, Stanley, Bobby, Trish, Eve, Bob, Eddie, Judy, Abra, Noa, Lillian, Hazel, Thomas, Matt, Mike, Chris, Beverly, Nancy, Louise,

Cheryl, Olivia, Larry and Steven.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

I ask your prayers for the departed.

Pray for those who have died.

If anyone has any special praises, blessings or petitions please share them at this time.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
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 Lord 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 Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory
throughout all ages. Amen.**

PRAYER OF CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one
accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have

accord to make our common supplication to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Officiant concludes with the Ephesians 3:20, 21

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or Imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen

RECESSIONAL 541

**Come, labor on.
Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."**

**Come, labor on.
Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.**

**Come, labor on.
Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here.
Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill
God's righteous will.**

**Come, labor on.
No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"**

Postlude