

Morning Prayer for Sunday
GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Opening Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Tune: Lobe den Herren

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul praise Him, for he is they health and salvation:
All ye who hear,
Now to His temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shiedeth thee gently from harm, or when failing sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen
How thy heart's wishes have been
Granted in what he ordaineth

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
Ponder anew
What the Almighty can do,
If to the end he befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen
Sound from his people again:
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Introductory Responses

Officiant: O Lord, open our lips
People: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
Officiant: In your resurrection, O Christ,
People: **let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.6**

The following may be said or sung.

Officiant: Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
People: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Invitatory Psalm: Psalm 95.1-7

Come, sing to the Holy One !
Shout for joy to the Rock who defends us!
Come into the Presence with thanksgiving! Raise our voices in joyful hymns!
Truly the Holy One is a great God, supreme above all gods,
in whose hands are the ends of the earth

and the heights of all the mountains.
The sea belongs to God who made it,
whose hands formed the dry land.
Come, worship and bow down;
kneel in the presence of our Creator.
Truly, truly, our God is the Holy One, whose people we are,
all in God's pasture.
Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Psalm

10 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; *
forget your people and your father's house.
11 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; *
he is your master; therefore do him honour.
12 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; *
the rich among the people seek your favour."
13 All glorious is the princess as she enters; *
her gown is cloth-of-gold.
14 In embroidered apparel she is brought to her sovereign; *
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.
15 With joy and gladness they are brought, *
and enter into the royal palace.
16 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; *
you shall make them princes over all the earth.
17 I will make your name to be remembered from one generation to another; *
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

Officiant: Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
People: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Lector: A reading from the book of Genesis.
³⁴ So he said, "I am Abraham's servant. ³⁵ The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. ³⁶ And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. ³⁷ My master made me swear, saying, 'You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; ³⁸ but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.'

⁴² “I came today to the spring, and said, ‘O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going!’ ⁴³ I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, ‘Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,’ ⁴⁴ and who will say to me, ‘Drink, and I will draw for your camels also’—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master’s son.’

⁴⁵ “Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, ‘Please let me drink.’ ⁴⁶ She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, ‘Drink, and I will also water your camels.’ So I drank, and she also watered the camels. ⁴⁷ Then I asked her, ‘Whose daughter are you?’ She said, ‘The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.’ So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Responsory

The Responsory is said or sung.

Officiant: Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.
And Christ shall give you light.

People: **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead. And Christ shall give you light.**

Officiant: You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God. Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

People: **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead. And Christ shall give you light.**

Officiant: When Christ our life appears
you will appear with him in glory.

People: **Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead. And Christ shall give you light.**

Lector: A reading from the letter to the Church at Rome.

¹⁵ I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1.68-79)

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, *
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets, *
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us, *
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear, *
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Officiant: Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
People: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

Lay Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lay Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

¹⁶ “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷ ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹ the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”^[a]

²⁵ At that time Jesus said, “I thank^[a] you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶ yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.^[b] ²⁷ All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸ “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Lay Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Sermon
The Very Rev. Donald A. Davidson

The Anthem: O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace

Christopher Tye

O Holy Spirit, Lord of Grace, Eternal source of love, In flame, we pray, our inmost hearts with fire from Heaven above. As thou dost join with holiest bonds The Father and the Son, So fill us all with mutual love and knit our hearts in one, and knit our hearts in one.

Hymn: *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

Tune: Kingsfold

1. *I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
So weary, worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.*
2. *I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down and drink and live:"
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
And now I live in Him.*
3. *I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright:"
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till travelling Days are done.*

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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 OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Intercessor: God of Israel, may this day be one of fulfillment and peace.
People: **Holy One, hear and have mercy.**

Intercessor: Teach us to love others as you have loved us.
People: **Holy One, hear and have mercy.**

Intercessor: Fill the world with your peace and justice.
People: **Holy One, hear and have mercy.**

Intercessor: Strengthen and relieve those who are in need.
People: **Holy One, hear and have mercy.**

Intercessor: Renew the Church through the power of your life-giving Spirit.
People: **Holy One, hear and have mercy.**

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the Church throughout the world;*
- *all who lead the church, ordained and lay;*
- *the leaders of the nations;*
- *the natural world and the resources of the earth;*
- *all who are in any kind of need.*

Officiant: God of heaven and earth,
you reveal your wisdom to the childlike;
may we learn from your Son humility of heart,
so that we find refreshment and rest
even as we shoulder the cross of Christ;
who, with you and the Holy Spirit,
lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Officiant: Source of light, yours is the morning and yours is the evening. May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine for ever in our hearts and draw us to that light where you live in radiant glory. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

All: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: Praise to the Holiest in the Height

Tune: Gerontius

1. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.
2. O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.
3. O wisest love! That flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail.
4. And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and His very self,
And essence all-divine.
5. O generous love! That he who smote
In Man, for man, the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo.
6. And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren and inspire
To suffer and to die.
7. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all his works most wonderful,
Most sure in all His ways.