

EVENING PRAYER – MARCH 27, 2024

*All Stand*

*Officiant*        O God, make speed to save us.

*People*            O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People*

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

*The following, or some other suitable hymn, or an Invitatory psalm, may be sung or said*

PHOS HILARON

**O gracious Light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

*Then follows*

PSALM 74

O God, why have you utterly cast us off?\*

why is your wrath so hot against the sheep of your pasture?

Remember your congregation that you purchased long ago,\*

the tribe you redeemed to be your inheritance,

and Mount Zion where you dwell.

Turn your steps toward the endless ruins;\*

the enemy has laid waste everything in your sanctuary.

Your adversaries roared in your holy place;\*

they set up their banners as tokens of victory.

They were like men coming up with axes to a grove of trees;\*

they broke down all your carved work with hatchets and hammers.

They set fire to your holy place;\*

they defiled the dwelling-place of your Name

and razed it to the ground.

They said to themselves, "Let us destroy them altogether."\*

they burned down all the meeting places of God in the land.

There are no signs for us to see; there is no prophet left;\*

there is not one among us who knows how long.

How long, O God, will the adversary scoff?\*

will the enemy blaspheme your Name for ever?

Why do you draw back your hand?\*

why is your right hand hidden in your bosom?

Yet God is my King from ancient times,\*  
 victorious in the midst of the earth.  
 You divided the sea by your might\*  
 and shattered the heads of the dragons upon the waters;  
 You crushed the heads of Leviathan\*  
 and gave him to the people of the desert for food.  
 You split open spring and torrent;\*  
 you dried up ever-flowing rivers.  
 Yours is the day, yours also the night;\*  
 you established the moon and the sun.  
 You fixed all the boundaries of the earth;\*  
 you made both summer and winter.  
 Remember, O Lord, how the enemy scoffed,\*  
 how a foolish people despised your Name.  
 Do not hand over the life of your dove to wild beasts;\*  
 never forget the lives of your poor.  
 Look upon your covenant;\*  
 the dark places of the earth are haunts of violence  
 Let not the oppressed turn away ashamed;\*  
 let the poor and needy praise your Name.  
 Arise, O God, maintain your cause;\*  
 remember how fools revile you all day long.  
 Forget not the clamor of your adversaries,\*  
 the unending tumult of those who rise up against you.

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

THE FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 1:23 – 2:11

*Reader*

A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

But I call on God as witness against me: it was to spare you that I did not come again to Corinth. I do not mean to imply that we lord it over your faith; rather, we are workers with you for your joy because you stand firm in faith. So I made up my mind not to make another visit that causes you grief. For if I cause you grief, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have grieved? And I wrote as I did, so that when I came, I might not suffer grief from those who should have made me rejoice, for I am confident about all of you, that my joy would be the joy of all of you. For I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you grief but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you. But if anyone has caused grief, he has caused it not to me but to some extent – not to exaggerate it – to all of you. This punishment by the majority is enough for such a person; so now instead you should forgive and console him, so that he may not be overwhelmed by even worse grief. So I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. I wrote for this reason: to test you and to know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. In fact, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ. And we do this so that we may not be outwitted by Satan, for we are not ignorant of his designs.

*Reader*  
*People*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Though in the form of God,\***

**Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,  
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,\*  
and I was born in human likeness.**

**Being found in human form, he humbled himself\*  
and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.**

**therefore, God has highly exalted him\*  
and given him the name above every name.**

**That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow,\*  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth.**

**And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,\*  
to the glory of God the Father.**

**The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People say together, all standing*

**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.**

*Officiant*        **The Lord be with you.**

*People*           **And also with you.**

*Officiant*        **Let us pray.**

*The people say together the following*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

#### SUFFRAGES A

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

*Officiant* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
*People* **Let your people sing with joy.**

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

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

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

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

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

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Savior gave his body to be whipped and his face to be spit upon: Give us grace to accept joyfully the sufferings of the present time, confident of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

#### A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

#### A PRAYER FOR MISSION

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. . **Amen.**

#### THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

*The Officiant and People pray together the following*

**Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.**

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Officiant      Let us bless the Lord.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant concludes with the following grace*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.