



May 12th, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer

Eve of the Ascension

Please remember to keep your microphone on mute unless you are speaking; it's hard to hear otherwise. You might also consider being a lesson reader or intercessor. All *italics* is read by the officiant; regular text is read by a reader, and **bold** text is spoken by the congregation.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. (*Psalm 141:2*)

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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 what we 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 the 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. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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. Alleluia.

THE 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.

THE PSALMS – 24 and 96

¹ The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, *
the world and all who dwell therein.

² **For it is he who founded it upon the seas *
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

³ "Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? *
and who can stand in his holy place?"

⁴ **"Those who have clean hands
and a pure heart, *
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

⁵ They shall receive a blessing from the Lord *
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."

⁶ **Such is the generation of those who seek him, *
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

⁸ **"Who is this King of glory?" *
"The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord, mighty in battle."**

⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.
¹⁰ **"Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory."**

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

² **Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

**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.**

THE FIRST READING – Ezekiel 1: 1-14, 24-28

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

¹In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the river Chebar, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. ²On the fifth day of the month (it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin), ³the word of the Lord came to the priest Ezekiel son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was on him there.

⁴As I looked, a stormy wind came out of the north: a great cloud with brightness around it and fire flashing forth continually, and in the middle of the fire, something like gleaming amber. ⁵In the middle of it was something like four living creatures. This was their appearance: they were of human form. ⁶Each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. ⁷Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot; and they sparkled like burnished bronze. ⁸Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: ⁹their wings touched one another; each of them moved straight ahead, without turning as they moved. ¹⁰As for the appearance of their faces: the four had the face of a human being, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle; ¹¹such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. ¹²Each moved straight ahead; wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. ¹³In the middle of the living creatures there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches moving to and fro among the living creatures; the fire was bright, and lightning issued from the fire. ¹⁴The living creatures darted to and fro, like a flash of lightning. ²⁴When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of mighty waters, like the thunder of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army; when they stopped, they let down their wings. ²⁵And there came a voice from above the dome over their heads; when they stopped, they let down their wings.

²⁶And above the dome over their heads there was something like a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was something that seemed like a human form. ²⁷Upward from what appeared like the loins I saw something like gleaming amber, something that looked like fire enclosed all around; and downward from what looked like the loins I saw something that looked like fire, and there was a splendor all around. ²⁸Like the

bow in a cloud on a rainy day, such was the appearance of the splendor all round. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.
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.

THE SECOND READING – Matthew 28: 16-20

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

¹⁶Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

A SHORT HOMILY – The Rev'd Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch

THE APOSTLES 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 LORD'S PRAYER AND SUFFRAGES

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

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.

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority. Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer. Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world. Pray for its ministers and its faithful, and for all that find sanctuary within it from the heartaches of a freewheeling world. *Silence is kept.*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule, remembering especially those places where war, violence, corruption and despair are commonplace. *Silence is kept.*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow, remembering especially those in our community who have asked for our prayers. *Silence is kept.*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises, especially those who have died since the world last year shook. *Silence is kept.*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service, and commit us to honoring the dignity of every human being through the ministries to which we are called. *Silence is kept.*

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** *Silence is kept.*

The Officiant offers other prayers and invites the people to add their own petitions. Then, the Officiant continues:

Christ our God, who at all times and through every hour is worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth; you who are so patient, full of mercy and compassion; who love the just and show mercy to sinners; who summon all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Lord, now receive our prayers at this present hour and direct our lives in accordance with your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our minds, clarify our intentions, and deliver us from every calamity, evil, and distress. Stand your holy angels around us, that, guided and protected by their ranks, we may come into the unity of faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory—for blessed are you to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Then the Officiant offers a blessing.

May God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. May God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. May God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the † Father, the † Son, and the † Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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.**