

Morning Prayer

Holy Cross Day
September 14, 2021

Opening Sentence

Officiant Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Psalm 19:14*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

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. Alleluia.***

Officiant The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:
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!**

The Psalm Appointed (appointed for the day) **Psalm 98: 1-6**

**O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.**

**His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.**

**The LORD has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.**

**He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.**

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.**

**Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.**

**Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.**

**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 Lessons

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians

Philippians 2: 5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.

Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;

And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,

Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,

So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;

But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it.

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 Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. *John 12:31-36*
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" Jesus said to them, "The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

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

Reflection

The historian Eusebius, in his *Life of Constantine*, tells how that emperor ordered the erection of a complex of buildings in Jerusalem “on a scale of imperial magnificence,” to set forth as “an object of attraction and veneration to all, the blessed place of our Savior’s resurrection.” The overall supervision of the work—on the site where the Church of the Holy Sepulcher now stands—was entrusted to Constantine’s mother, the empress Helena. In Jesus’ time, the hill of Calvary had stood outside the city; but when the Roman city which succeeded Jerusalem, Aelia Capitolina, was built, the hill was buried under tons of fill. It was during the excavations directed by Helena that a relic, believed to be that of the true cross, was discovered.

Constantine’s shrine included two principal buildings: a large basilica, used for the Liturgy of the Word, and a circular church, known as “The Resurrection”—its Altar placed on the site of the tomb—which was used for the Liturgy of the Table, and for the singing of the Daily Office.

Toward one side of the courtyard which separated the two buildings, and through which the faithful had to pass on their way from Word to Sacrament, the exposed top of Calvary’s hill was visible. It was there that the solemn veneration of the cross took place on Good Friday; and it was there that the congregation gathered daily for a final prayer and dismissal after Vespers.

The dedication of the buildings was completed on September 14, 335, the seventh month of the Roman calendar, a date suggested by the account of the dedication of Solomon’s temple in the same city, in the seventh month of the Jewish Calendar, hundreds of years before (2 Chronicles 7:8–10).

The Apostles’ Creed

Officiant and People

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.

***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.***

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

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. ***Let your people sing with joy.***

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

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

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

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

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

The Collect of the Day

Officiant Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen.***

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion

Let us pray together a prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Blessed Jesus, I believe that we are fed with the spiritual food of your Body and Blood. Since I cannot receive You physically today, I now desire to receive you spiritually into my soul. Unite my heart with those of my community gathered to celebrate the great meal of thanksgiving and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant me confidence in your loving care now and forever. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant

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 ourselves 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.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant 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.**

Bible Study

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Reflection on Mark 9: 30-37

Jesus and his disciples are traveling through Galilee. He was teaching his disciples and he said to them: “The Son of Man will be handed over and will be killed! Three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.” His disciples did not understand what Jesus was saying to them. Would what he foretold really come true? How could that be? Jesus was a great teacher and Rabbi. However, they hesitated to question him.

They arrived in Capernaum and when they were settled in the house where they were staying, Jesus asked them: “What were you arguing about during our journey?” However, the disciples remained silent. They were embarrassed. The topic of their conversation had been “who was the greatest disciple.” Most likely, they knew that Jesus would not approve of their conversation. What would Jesus think of them if they told him the truth?

Jesus then tells his disciples: “Whoever wishes to be first shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Jesus then calls a little child over to him and says to the disciples: “Whoever receives one child in my name, receives me! And whoever receives me, receives the One who sent me.”

Power and renown. In our world, this is what many people long for and strive for! Think of all the movie stars, rock singers, models and political candidates who vie for publicity, power and renown. Do they actually believe that this will bring them happiness? Or are they simply caught up in the world’s values? Jesus calls us to find our happiness and security in him, not in fame or fortune.

Naturally, we all desire that others think well of us. And in and of itself, this is not bad. We get into trouble when we are driven to look good or to achieve in order to achieve some status, honor or esteem. We believe that then people will approve of us and of what we have accomplished.

We are invited to take some time and ask our self: How important is power, renown and admiration to me? Do I consciously or unconsciously strive to look good? To have others admire me? Or am I content to be simple, pure and loving like a child? There is no guile in young children. They simply are who they are. They trust. They love. They enjoy life. And yet we adults often consider them immature. And in many ways they are. Yet, they can be a great example to us of what truly is important in life. Today observe a child. Imitate a child. You may have a wonderful day!