



THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

The Order for Morning Prayer

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

Opening Sentences

Officiant The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

John 4:23

Confession of Sin

¶ The Officiant says

DEARLY BELOVED, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

¶ Officiant and People, all kneeling

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
And there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

‡ *The Officiant alone stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution † and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.

‡ *People Amen.*

‡ *All stand*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.

People And our mouth shall show forth thy 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 for ever. Amen.

‡ *All say the Invitatory Canticle together, as follows*

Invitatory Canticle

Venite, exultemus

PSALM 95:1-7, 96:9, 13

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, *
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, *
and the strength of the hills is his also.
The sea is his and he made it, *
and his hands prepared the dry land.
O come, let us worship and fall down *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is the Lord our God, *
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, *
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

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.

‡ *All are then seated for the Psalm appointed for the day*

¶ The Psalm is read by the Lector and Congregation, alternating by whole verse

Lord, thou hast been our refuge, *
from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever the earth and the world were made, *
thou art God from everlasting, and world without end.

Thou turnest man to destruction; *
again thou sayest, Come again, ye children of men.

For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, *
and as a watch in the night.

As soon as thou scatterest them they are even as a sleep; *
and fade away suddenly like the grass.

In the morning it is green, and groweth up; *
but in the evening it is cut down, dried up, and withered.

For we consume away in thy displeasure, *
and are afraid at thy wrathful indignation.

Thou hast set our misdeeds before thee; *
and our secret sins in the light of thy countenance.

For when thou art angry all our days are gone: *
we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told.

The days of our age are threescore years and ten;
and though men be so strong that they come to fourscore years, *
yet is their strength then but labour and sorrow;
so soon passeth it away, and we are gone.

But who regardeth the power of thy wrath? *
or feareth aright thy indignation?

So teach us to number our days, *
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

¶ At the conclusion of the Psalmody the Gloria Patri is said by 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 for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Lesson

ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

BE SILENT BEFORE THE LORD GOD! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are thickening upon their lees, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill." Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring distress on men, so that they shall walk like the blind, because they have sinned against the Lord; their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them on the day of the wrath of the Lord. In the fire of his jealous wrath, all the earth shall be consumed; for a full, yea, sudden end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle

Canticle

Benedictus Dominus Deus

LUKE 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, *
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us *
in the house of his servant David,
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, *
which have been since the world began:
That we should be saved from our enemies, *
and from the hand of all that hate us;
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, *
and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, *
that he would give us,
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies *
might serve him without fear,
In holiness and righteousness before him, *
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, *
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord
to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people *
for the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God, *
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

¶ All are seated

The Second Lesson

MATTHEW 25:14-30

JESUS SAID, “FOR IT WILL BE AS WHEN A MAN going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, “Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.” And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, “Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.” He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, “Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master answered him, “You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.”

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle

Canticle

Te Deum laudamus

We praise thee, O God;
we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud,
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee,
the Father, of an infinite majesty, thine adorable, true, and only Son,
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.
Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,
in glory everlasting.

¶ All remain standing for the Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed

¶ Said by the Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.

He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, †
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

¶ *The Officiant and People say the following*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

¶ *Then the short form of the Lord's Prayer is said by all, kneeling*

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.
Amen.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages, said by the Officiant and People*

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

People And grant us thy salvation.

Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

People And make thy chosen people joyful.

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People For only in thee can we live in safety.

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

Officiant Let thy way be known upon earth;
People Thy 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 thy Holy Spirit.

The Collects

BLESSED LORD, WHO HAST CAUSED all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
¶ People Amen.

O GOD, WHO ART THE AUTHOR OF PEACE and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

ALmighty AND EVERLASTING GOD, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
¶ People Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

¶ Said by the Officiant and People together

ALmighty GOD, Father of all mercies,
we thine unworthy servants do give
thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

¶ Said by the Officiant

ALmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *¶ People Amen.*

¶ All stand

Benedicamus Domino

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Grace

¶ Officiant

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

Hymn



*1 Not here for high and ho - ly things we ren - der thanks to
*2 the ro - yal robes of au - tumn moors, the gold - en gates of
*3 of faith and hope and love un - dimmed, un - dy - ing still through
4 A - wake, a - wake to love and work! The lark is in the
5 Come, let thy voice be one with theirs, shout with their shout of
6 to give and give, and give a - gain, what God hath giv - en



1 thee, but for the com - mon things of earth, the
2 spring, the vel - vet of soft sum - mer nights, the
3 death, the re - sur - rec - tion of the world, what
4 sky, the fields are wet with dia - mond dew, the
5 praise; see how the gi - ant sun soars up, great
6 thee; to spend thy - self nor count the cost; to



1 pur - ple pa - gean - try of dawn - ing and of
2 sil - ver glis - te - ring of all the mil - lion
3 time there comes the breath of dawn that rus - tles
4 worlds a - wake to cry their bles - sings on the
5 lord of years and days! So let the love of
6 serve right glo - rious - ly the God who gave all



1 dy - ing days, the splen - dor of the sea,
2 mil - lion stars, the si - lent song they sing,
3 through the trees, and that clear voice that saith:
4 Lord of life, as he goes meek - ly by.
5 Je - sus come and set thy soul a - blaze,
6 worlds that are, and all that are to be.

Words: Geoffrey Anketel Studdert-Kennedy (1883-1929)

Music: MORNING SONG, melody att. Elkanah Kelsay Dare (1782-1826)

Anthem

Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days:
 that I may be certified how long I have to live.
 Behold, thou hast made my days as it were a span long:
 and mine age is even as nothing in respect of thee;
 and verily every man living is altogether vanity.
 For man walketh in a vain shadow, and disquieteth himself in vain;
 he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.
 And now, Lord, what is my hope?
 Truly my hope is even in thee.
 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and with thine ears, consider my calling;
 hold not thy peace at my tears.
 O spare me a little, that I may recover my strength:
 before I go hence, and be no more seen.

Words: Psalm 39: 5-8, 13, 15

Music: Maurice Greene (1695-1755)

Closing Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

¶ *All kneel*

¶ *Then Prayers and Intercessions are offered*

ALMIGHTY FATHER, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, even as thou and he are one: Grant that thy Church, being bound together in love and obedience to thee, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom thou didst send, the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ¶ *People Amen.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast created us in thine own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ¶ *People Amen.*

HEAVENLY FATHER, we remember before thee those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *☩ People Amen*

OMERCIFUL CREATOR, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us, we beseech thee, ever thankful for thy loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of thy bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Spirit liveth and reigneth, one God, for ever and ever. *☩ People Amen.*

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *☩ People Amen.*

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *☩ People Amen.*

The Blessing

GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD IN PEACE; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; and the blessing of God Almighty, ☩ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *☩ People Amen.*

Liturgical Music

Very little is known of English organist and composer John James (d. 1745) apart from the fact that he was reputedly a turbulent figure with an extravagant style of organ and keyboard playing. His *Voluntary in A minor* opens this morning's liturgy. Composed for the organ in the style of a short prelude and fugue, this piece displays no evidence of the composer's extravagance. Today it is played in a version orchestrated for strings by the ARIA Chamber Orchestra.

The hymns sung at the Church of St. Michael & St. George are drawn from *The Hymnal 1982* of The Episcopal Church. In our hymnal, the early American folk tune *Morning Song* is assigned to this morning's hymn, *Not here for high and holy things*. The wonderful text of this hymn transfers to natural phenomena, and common things of earth, the conventional attributes of wealth and status.

Maurice Greene (1696-1755) led a distinguished life as a chorister at London's St. Paul's Cathedral, organist of the Chapel Royal and Professor of Music at Cambridge University. He later was appointed Master of the King's Musick. His superb anthem, *Lord, let me know mine end*, sung this morning, sets verses from Psalm 39 – filled with extraordinary pathos – by employing a polyphonic texture over a continuous instrumental walking bass, with a particularly effective treble duet in the middle of the work.

This morning's liturgy concludes with Johann Sebastian Bach's (1685-1750) *Two-part Sinfonia XV*. Originally conceived for keyboard, it is here played as a duet for oboe d'amour and solo cello.



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