

EASTER 6 - EVENING PRAYER - YEAR 1 – MAY 26 2019

The First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 43:1-2,6-7,9-12,27-28

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

The pride of the higher realms is the clear vault of the sky, as glorious to behold as the sight of the heavens. The sun, when it appears, proclaims as it rises what a marvelous instrument it is, the work of the Most High. It is the moon that marks the changing seasons, governing the times, their everlasting sign. From the moon comes the sign for festal days, a light that wanes when it completes its course. The glory of the stars is the beauty of heaven, a glittering array in the heights of the Lord. We could say more but could never say enough; let the final word be: “He is the all.” Where can we find the strength to praise him? For he is greater than all his works.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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The Second Reading: Matthew 13:24-34a

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’ He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ But he replied, ‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers. Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Psalm 34

- 1 I will bless the LORD at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 I will glory in the LORD; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- 3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt his Name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- 6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.
- 8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!
- 9 Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.
- 10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
- 11 Come, children, and listen to me; *
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 Who among you loves life *
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?
- 13 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking *
and your lips from lying words.
- 14 Turn from evil and do good; *
seek peace and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, *
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.

- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- 22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.