

## **EVENING PRAYER – EASTER 4 – MAY 12 2019**

### **The First Reading: Wisdom of Solomon 1:1-15**

Reader: A Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

Love righteousness, you rulers of the earth, think of the Lord in goodness and seek him with sincerity of heart; because he is found by those who do not put him to the test, and manifests himself to those who do not distrust him. For perverse thoughts separate people from God, and when his power is tested, it exposes the foolish; because wisdom will not enter a deceitful soul, or dwell in a body enslaved to sin. For a holy and disciplined spirit will flee from deceit, and will leave foolish thoughts behind, and will be ashamed at the approach of unrighteousness. For wisdom is a kindly spirit, but will not free blasphemers from the guilt of their words; because God is witness of their inmost feelings, and a true observer of their hearts, and a hearer of their tongues. Because the spirit of the Lord has filled the world, and that which holds all things together knows what is said, therefore those who utter unrighteous things will not escape notice, and justice, when it punishes, will not pass them by. For inquiry will be made into the counsels of the ungodly, and a report of their words will come to the Lord, to convict them of their lawless deeds; because a jealous ear hears all things, and the sound of grumbling does not go unheard. Beware then of useless grumbling, and keep your tongue from slander; because no secret word is without result, and a lying mouth destroys the soul. Do not invite death by the error of your life, or bring on destruction by the works of your hands; because God did not make death, and he does not delight in the death of the living. For he created all things so that they might exist; the generative forces of the world are wholesome, and there is no destructive poison in them, and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For righteousness is immortal.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

## **EVENING PRAYER – EASTER 4 – MAY 12 2019**

### **The Second Reading: Matthew 7:15-29**

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

Jesus said, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles? In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits. Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many deeds of power in your name?’ Then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; go away from me, you evildoers.’ Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

## EVENING PRAYER – EASTER 4 – MAY 12 2019

### PSALM 103

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.
- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.
- 3 He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;
- 16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.

- 17 But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever  
on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.
- 19 The LORD has set his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingship has dominion over all.
- 20 Bless the LORD, you angels of his,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice of his word.
- 21 Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, \*  
you ministers of his who do his will.
- 22 Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion; \*  
bless the LORD, O my soul.