

MORNING PRAYER

Lent IV

March 27, 2020

Opening Sentences

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**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.**

Venite, said by all.

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!

Psalm 120, said responsively by whole verse.

1 Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; *
hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.

2 Incline your ear to me; *

when I call, make haste to answer me,

3 For my days drift away like smoke, *
and my bones are hot as burning coals.

**4 My heart is smitten like grass and withered, *
so that I forget to eat my bread.**

5 Because of the voice of my groaning *
I am but skin and bones.

**6 I have become like a vulture in the wilderness, *
like an owl among the ruins.**

7 I lie awake and groan; *

I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.

8 My enemies revile me all day long, *

and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.

9 For I have eaten ashes for bread *
and mingled my drink with weeping.

**10 Because of your indignation and wrath *
you have lifted me up and thrown me away.**

11 My days pass away like a shadow, *
and I wither like the grass.

**12 But you, O Lord, endure for ever, *
and your Name from age to age.**

13 You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to have mercy upon her; *
indeed, the appointed time has come.

**14 For your servants love her very rubble, *
and are moved to pity even for her dust.**

15 The nations shall fear your Name, O Lord, *
and all the kings of the earth your glory.

**16 For the Lord will build up Zion, *
and his glory will appear.**

17 He will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless; *
he will not despise their plea.

**18 Let this be written for a future generation, *
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.**

19 For the Lord looked down from his holy place on high; *
from the heavens he beheld the earth;

**20 That he might hear the groan of the captive *
and set free those condemned to die;**

21 That they may declare in Zion the Name of the Lord, *
and his praise in Jerusalem;

**22 When the peoples are gathered together, *
and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.**

23 He has brought down my strength before my time; *
he has shortened the number of my days;

**24 And I said, "O my God,
do not take me away in the midst of my days; *
your years endure throughout all generations.**

25 In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, *
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

**26 They shall perish, but you will endure;
they all shall wear out like a garment; ***

**as clothing you will change them,
and they shall be changed;**

27 But you are always the same, *
and your years will never end.

**28 The children of your servants shall continue, *
and their offspring shall stand fast in your sight."**

First Reading: Exodus 2:1-22

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. "This must be one of the Hebrews' children," she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

One day, after Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and saw their forced labor. He saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his kinsfolk. He looked this way and that, and seeing no one he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. When he went out the next day, he saw two Hebrews fighting; and he said to the one who was in the wrong, "Why do you strike your fellow Hebrew?" He answered, "Who made you a ruler and judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and thought, "Surely the thing is known." When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses.

But Moses fled from Pharaoh. He settled in the land of Midian, and sat down by a well. The priest of Midian had seven daughters. They came to draw water, and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. But some shepherds came and drove them away. Moses got up and came to their defense and watered their flock. When they returned to their father Reuel, he said, "How is it that you have come back so soon today?" They said, "An Egyptian helped us against the shepherds; he even drew water for us and watered the flock." He said to his daughters, "Where is he? Why did you leave the man? Invite him to break bread." Moses agreed to stay with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah in marriage. She bore a son, and he named him Gershom; for he said, "I have been an alien residing in a foreign land."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A time of silence and reflection may follow.

Canticle 14: A Song of Penitence, said by all.

**O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.**

**All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.**

**O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.**

**You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.**

**In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.**

**And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.**

**I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.**

**Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.**

**Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.**

**For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.**

**Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.**

**For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:27-13:3

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all

prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Meditation – *“Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you.” (Psalm 120:1)*

Canticle 18: A Song to the Lamb, said by all.

Splendor and honor and kingly power *

are yours by right, O Lord our God,

For you created everything that is, *

and by your will they were created and have their being;

And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *

for with your blood you have redeemed for God,

From every family, language, people, and nation, *

a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *

and to Christ the Lamb,

Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *

for ever and for evermore.

The Prayers

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Officiant: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

All: Govern them and uphold them, now and always.

Officiant: Day by day we bless you;

All: We praise your name for ever.

Officiant: Lord, keep us from all sin today;

All: Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: Lord, show us your love and mercy;

All: For we put our trust in you.

Officiant: In you, Lord, is our hope;

All: And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collects

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come, life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Dismissal