

Evening Prayer  
July 21, 2022

Welcome

Prelude

Opening

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**  
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**and the day is almost over.**  
Let your light scatter the darkness  
**and illumine your church.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
Whose steadfast love endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way.**  
**Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table.**  
**When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us**  
**again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news!  
God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and  
mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. We are free to love as God  
loves.  
**Amen.**

Thanksgiving for Light

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,  
and you set lights in the sky to govern night and day.  
In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night  
you led your people into freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ;  
may your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path;  
for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all  
your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray,  
and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant  
mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good  
things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Proverbs 12:1, 5-7, 22-28**

<sup>1</sup>Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,  
but those who hate to be rebuked are stupid.

<sup>5</sup>The thoughts of the righteous are just;  
the advice of the wicked is treacherous.

<sup>6</sup>The words of the wicked are a deadly ambush,  
but the speech of the upright delivers them.

<sup>7</sup>The wicked are overthrown and are no more,  
but the house of the righteous will stand.

<sup>22</sup>Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,  
but those who act faithfully are his delight.

<sup>23</sup>One who is clever conceals knowledge,  
but the mind of a fool broadcasts folly.

<sup>24</sup>The hand of the diligent will rule,  
while the lazy will be put to forced labor.

<sup>25</sup>Anxiety weighs down the human heart,  
but a good word cheers it up.

<sup>26</sup>The righteous gives good advice to friends,  
but the way of the wicked leads astray.

<sup>27</sup>The lazy do not roast their game,  
but the diligent obtain precious wealth.

<sup>28</sup>In the path of righteousness there is life,  
in walking its path there is no death.

**Psalm 138** *(read responsively by whole verse)*

<sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

**<sup>2</sup>I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.**

<sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul.

**<sup>4</sup>All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup>They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**<sup>6</sup>For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.**

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.**

**Gloria Patri**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

**Genesis 18:20-32**

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are

found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup>He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

## Response

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## Gospel Canticle *(together)*

### Magnificat A Prayer-Paraphrase of Luke 1: 46-55

**We praise you, Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in you – our Saviour;**

**For you take notice of the unnoticeable,  
and transform them into the blessed;  
You are strong and true to yourself and all that is good  
in everything you are and do and say;  
and you do great things for us;**

**Through the ages you have shown compassion  
to those who trust you,  
And in your strength you have scattered  
those who are arrogant and abusive;**

**You have made the thrones of tyrants topple  
and you have made humble people into leaders of many;  
You have cared for and provided for those who have nothing,  
and you have left the over-satisfied with empty hands;**

**You have always been a help to your people,  
and have shown mercy when we have gone astray;  
You made this promise to our ancestors,  
and you continue to stay true to it even now.**

**We praise you, Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in you – our Saviour. Amen.**

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## Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

## Prayers

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,  
and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;  
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection  
in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in  
captivity, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

**To you, O Lord.**

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Amen.**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

#### **Written Offering**

#### **Benediction**

1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all  
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the  
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,

na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.  
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.  
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.

This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the  
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The

rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.  
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'-ry-where.  
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858-1901  
 Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852-1930, adapt.