

Evening Prayer with Healing

Christ the King + Saturday, November 21, 2020

DIALOGUE

God is our light and | our salvation.

our refuge | and our stronghold.

From the rising of the sun | to its setting.

we praise your | name, O God.

For with you is the foun- | tain of life,

and in your light | we see light.

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 light 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.

PSALMODY

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to you.

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

**Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God;
in you I take refuge.
Strip me not of my life.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.**

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense;
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

GOSPEL CANTICLE

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me bless'd:
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

HEALING

Introduction

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Loving God, our source and our final home,
we give you thanks for the gifts of life on earth,
for our human bodies and all you have created.

In your great mercy,

hear us, O God.

Merciful God,
by the wounds of your Son we are healed.
Bring your saving health to all people.
In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Holy God,
your Spirit came upon us in the waters of baptism
and brought us into the communion of saints.
Renew in us the grace of baptism,
by which we share in Christ's death and resurrection.
In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Mighty God,
your Son Jesus brought healing and wholeness to all.
Bring your healing presence now to all who are sick or in pain.
Grant hope to all who are discouraged or in despair.
In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Compassionate God, the strength of those who suffer,
bring hope and peace to all who are in mental, physical, or spiritual distress.
especially those who are on our heart this evening and those for whom we have
promised to intercede. (*We pause to speak their names.*) In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Almighty God, source of human knowledge,
give skill, wisdom, and compassion
to all who provide medical care.
In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

Loving God, our creator and redeemer,
give gentleness and courage to family members, friends,
and caregivers of those who suffer. In your great mercy,
hear us, O God.

God of great and abundant mercy,
with your presence sustain all for whom we pray.
Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope,
and strengthen their trust in you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Those who wish may lay their hands on their heart or head, hands or part of the body they desire healing. You may wish to lay hands on your own heart to pray for someone you know who is in need of healing.

In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,
be strengthened and filled with God's grace,
that you may know the healing power of the Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands,
grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing.
When they are afraid, give them courage;
when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope;
and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We give our offerings in praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ and for the sake of Jesus' ongoing mission and ministry in this world. We have been entrusted to carry out this mission Jesus' name, bringing the good news of Jesus to the people of this community and around the world. Please, take a minute of your time to make an electronic gift through the St. Paul's Website www.stpauls-edison.org/online-giving.html. Please consider making this gift a recurring gift. You may also mail your offering to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 445 Old Post Rd., Edison NJ 08817.

OFFERING PRAYER

Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours.

Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps; abide in us and enliven us by the power of your indwelling.

Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen, your grace renew, and your fire cleanse us, soul and body, in life and in death, in this world of shadows and in your changeless world of light eternal, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday afternoon Zoom Bible Study, Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. (Sign up to join the conversation: <https://calendly.com/james-krombholz/bible-and-bagels>).

Thursday evening Zoom Bible at 7:00 p.m. (Sign up to join the conversation: <https://calendly.com/james-krombholz/thursday-evening-bible-study>).

Bedtime Prayers on Zoom. Every evening at 9:00 p.m. (e-mail PastorJim2006@icloud.com to request log in links and/or phone number)

In-Person Gatherings. The St. Paul's community will continue to gather online as its primary place of assembly until the risk of developing and spreading COVID-19 is greatly diminished. To supplement our online gatherings, we are offering an in-person services indoors on Saturday evening and outdoors on Sunday morning. **Our next service of evening prayer with holy communion will be on Saturday, November 28, at 5:30 p.m. THIS SERVICE IS SCHEDULED TO OCCUR IN THE SANCTUARY.** And our next in-person Sunday Worship will be a service of Holy Communion for the **First Sunday of Advent, November 22, at 10 a.m.** At the current time, we are planning an experiment for Advent-Christmas worship on Sunday mornings. We will gather

outdoors for our welcome, confession and forgiveness, opening hymn and lighting of the Advent wreath. Next, if the weather is cold, we will move indoors for the WORD and MEAL portions of the service (scripture, sermon, prayers and communion). The service will still be broadcast to the parking lot if you do not wish to enter the sanctuary. The service concludes with a sending hymn and blessing outdoors.

For these services we ask that you sign up in advance so we know who and how many people are planning to attend. To sign up to attend, please use the registration link in the e-mail announcement, your virtual bulletin and on the St. Paul's Website, or by calling the church office. We are asking that all who attend, in-person services abide by these three simple rules: 1) Always wear a face covering; 2) Maintain social distancing by giving your neighbor at least six-feet of personal space; 3) Treat your fellow worshipers with love and respect by actively looking out for their safety and well being.

Share some food or volunteer. You can donate non-perishable food to the food pantry by placing your donations in the box located outside the glass door entrance to the lounge. If you would like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call Jane Brady.

Volunteers: We could use people to help us in the following areas:

- Ushers
- Online greeters
- Prayer team

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the Father, Creator of the universe,
✝ Jesus, the Christ, Lord and Savior of the world
and the Holy Spirit, the Advocate and Comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.