

Morning Prayer

July 10, 2024

Opening Sentence

Officiant Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. *Psalm 19: 14*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People ***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

Officiant and People ***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.***

Officiant Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:
Come let us adore him.

Jubilate

Psalm 100

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

The Psalm Appointed *(appointed for the day)*

Psalm 94: 5-15

**They crush your people, O LORD,
and afflict your heritage.**

**They kill the widow and the stranger,
they murder the orphan,**

**and they say, 'The LORD does not see;
the God of Jacob does not perceive.'**

**Understand, O dullest of the people;
fools, when will you be wise?**

He who planted the ear, does he not hear?
He who formed the eye, does he not see?
He who disciplines the nations,
he who teaches knowledge to humankind,
does he not chastise?

The LORD knows our thoughts,
that they are but an empty breath.

Happy are those whom you discipline, O LORD,
and whom you teach out of your law,
giving them respite from days of trouble,
until a pit is dug for the wicked.

the LORD will not forsake his people;
he will not abandon his heritage;

for justice will return to the righteous,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.

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.

The Lessons

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 10: 5-16

Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger—the club in their hands is my fury!
Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him,
to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.
But this is not what he intends, nor does he have this in mind;
but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few.
For he says: ‘Are not my commanders all kings?
For he says: ‘By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom I have
understanding; I have removed the boundaries of peoples, and have plundered their
treasures; like a bull I have brought down those who sat on thrones.
My hand has found, like a nest, the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have
been forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing, or
opened its mouth, or chirped.’
Shall the axe vaunt itself over the one who wields it, or the saw magnify itself against the one
who handles it? As if a rod should raise the one who lifts it up, or as if a staff should lift the one
who is not wood!
Therefore the Lord, the LORD of hosts, will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors,
and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,

and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing

from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples;

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,

and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.

The Gospel

Gospeller

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Matthew 11: 25-27

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.*

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Officiant Let us pray.

***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, for ever and ever. Amen.***

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. ***And grant us your salvation.***

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. ***Let your people sing with joy.***

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. ***For only in you can we live in safety.***

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. ***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. ***Your saving health among all nations.***

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. ***Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.***

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. ***And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.***

The Collect of the Day

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Officiant Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Spiritual Communion

Let us pray together a prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. We are grateful to know there are many ways to experience your presence, but in whatever way we do, we know you come into our hearts, minds and souls. Unite my heart with those of my family of faith and make us all one with you. May this spiritual communion strengthen my faith and grant me confidence in your loving care now and forever. Amen.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us
and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Bible Study

Gospel: Mark 6: 14-29

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Reflection on Mark 6: 14-29

In relatively few verses, we get a masterclass in grotesque family dynamics. Herod, contrary to the law, weds his brother's wife, Herodias. John the Baptist calls him out on the scandal, causing Herod some anxiety and Herodias some anger. Herod throws John in prison to limit John's reach and assuage his wife. At a birthday party, Herod's step-daughter, Salome, dances

for him and the guests so well, that he feels obliged to offer her anything she wants. In consultation with her still-aggrieved mother, the daughter asks for the head of John the Baptist on a platter, which he obliges in order to save face with his party guests. God save us from these... *unhealthy* dynamics!

Fast forward some time: Herod, still likely wracked by fear and guilt from this episode, hears of Jesus, a wandering healer. He assumes that John has been resurrected and his life and power are back under threat. This sets the stage for future interactions between Jesus and the terrified, guilt-wracked, haunted Herod.

- Put yourself in the position of Herod. How do you feel when you hear about this Jesus working miracles among your people?
- When have you seen anger, wrath, and fear spin out of control?