



ST. MARY OF THE HILLS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
JANUARY 25, 2024

**MORNING PRAYER
RITE II**

A prayerful silence precedes the service.

THE OPENING SENTENCES

From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure offering: for my Name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 1:11

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

Psalm 43:3

THE CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 79

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

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.**

Alleluia.

All say the Antiphon:

The Lord has shown forth his glory: **Come let us adore him.**

THE 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.

All repeat the Antiphon:

The Lord has shown forth his glory: **Come let us adore him.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 27:1, 5-13, *Dominus illuminatio*

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;
 whom then shall I fear? *
 the LORD is the strength of my life;
 of whom then shall I be afraid?
 5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;
 one thing I seek; *
 that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD *
 and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; *
 he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling
 and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head *
 above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation
 with sounds of great gladness; *
 I will sing and make music to the LORD.

10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; *
 have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." *
 Your face, LORD, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, *
 nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;
 cast me not away; *
 do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

At the end of the Psalm is sung

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.

THE FIRST LESSON

First Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
 and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
 For behold, darkness covers the land; *
 deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
 But over you the Lord will rise, *
 and his glory will appear upon you.
 Nations will stream to your light, *
 and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
 Your gates will always be open; *
 by day or night they will never be shut.
 They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
 The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
 Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
 ruin or destruction within your borders.
 You will call your walls, Salvation, *
 and all your portals, Praise.
 The sun will no more be your light by day; *
 by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.
 The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
 and your God will be your glory.
 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 SECOND LESSON

Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
 on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
 the people who sat in darkness
 have seen a great light,
 and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
 light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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.

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.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

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.

- 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.**

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A period of silence may be kept. Free intercessions may be offered.
The people add their own petitions and thanksgivings.*

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP 101

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 our selves 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.

The Officiant concludes the prayers with this collect,

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.**

THE DISMISSAL & GRACE

BCP 102

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

Credits and References

*Liturgical references are from the Book of Common Prayer (1979), The Hymnal 1982, and the Book of Occasional Services (2018)

**Biblical references are from the Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version (1989)

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