



March 24th, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer

Eve of the Annunciation

Please remember to keep your microphone on mute unless you are speaking; it's hard to hear otherwise. You might also consider being a lesson reader or intercessor. All *italics* is read by the officiant; regular text is read by a reader, and **bold** text is spoken by the congregation.

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. (*Psalm 139: 10-11*)

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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 PHOS HILARON

O gracious Light,

pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessèd!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light,

we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of Life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

THE SONG OF MARY

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me
blessed: ***

**the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

**The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**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 READING – Isaiah 7: 10-14

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people 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 forever. Amen.

THE SECOND READING – Hebrews 10: 4-10

A reading from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE THIRD READING – Luke 1: 26-38

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

A SHORT HOMILY – The Rev'd Canon Matthew Dayton-Welch

THE APOSTLES CREED

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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

We pray to the Lord for courage:

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world. We pray for especially for those ministries supported by this parish in this region, in Haiti, and in the Holy Land. May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus bring forgiveness to your people and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation. Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give your world the courage to give up war, bitterness and hatred, and to seek peace. We pray for this nation as we seek to heal our common wounds and forge bonds of friendship across daunting divides. May the shoulders of the risen Jesus, once scourged by soldiers, bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world. Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy in our families, neighborhoods and communities. We pray for the families that comprise our beloved church family, and for the community in Newtown Square. May the presence of the risen Jesus, his body once broken and now made whole, bring peace and direction as we live with one another. Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our selfishness as we live for others, and to give time, care and comfort to the sick. [We pray for especially for those in our parish who have asked for our prayers: _____. May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch, and the light of his presence fill their rooms. Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer.**

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death and to rejoice with those who have died in faith. [Especially we hold ... in our minds.] May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross, walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony, and walk with us and all your Church through death to the gate of glory. Lord, meet us in the silence, **give us strength and hear our prayer, here and in eternity. Amen.**

Then the Officiant offers three prayers, and intercessions and thanksgivings.

Christ our God, who at all times and through every hour is worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth; you who are so patient, full of mercy and compassion; who love the just and show mercy to sinners; who summon all to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Lord, now receive our prayers at this present hour and direct our lives in accordance with your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our minds, clarify our intentions, and deliver us from every calamity, evil, and distress. Stand your holy angels around us, that, guided and protected by their ranks, we may come into the unity of faith and the knowledge of your unapproachable glory—for blessed are you to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. May God the Son, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. May God the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the † Father, the † Son, and the † Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

THE GREAT SUPPLICATION

O Lord, arise, help us; **and deliver us for thy Name's sake.**

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our forebearers have declared unto us, the noble works that thou didst in their days, and in the old time before them. **O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for thy Name's sake.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. **O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for thy Name's sake.**

From our enemies defend us, O Christ; **graciously behold our afflictions.**
With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts; **mercifully forgive the sins of thy people.**
Favorably with mercy hear our prayers; **O Son of David, have mercy upon us.**
Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ; **graciously hear us, O Christ;**
graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.

Let us pray: We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of thy Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness and pureness of living, to thy honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**