



January 20th, 2021, at 5:30 pm

Evening Prayer

Fabian, Bishop and Martyr in Rome

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 **bold** text is spoken by the people.

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (*Isaiah 49: 6b*)

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Savior Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. In the presence of the God and Father of us all, we meet together to give thanks for the spiritual unity which is already ours as members of the Body of Christ. Let us acknowledge our sin, that this unity may, by God's grace, become a visible unity, so that his Church in every place may demonstrate the healing power of the gospel, and be an instrument of his peace in the life of the world.

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

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. Alleluia.

THE PHOS HILARON

O gracious Light,

pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

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 PSALM – 119: 25-48

My soul cleaves to the dust; *
 give me life according to your word.
**I have confessed my ways,
 and you answered me; ***
instruct me in your statutes.
 Make me understand the way of your
 commandments, *
 that I may meditate on your marvelous works.
My soul melts away for sorrow; *
strengthen me according to your word.
 Take from me the way of lying; *
 let me find grace through your law.
I have chosen the way of faithfulness; *
I have set your judgments before me.
 I hold fast to your decrees; *
 O Lord, let me not be put to shame.
I will run the way of your commandments, *
for you have set my heart at liberty.
 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
 and I shall keep it to the end.
**Give me understanding,
 and I shall keep your law; ***
I shall keep it with all my heart.
 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
 for that is my desire.
**Incline my heart to your decrees *
 and not to unjust gain.**
 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
 give me life in your ways.

Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.
 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
 because your judgments are good.
Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.
 Let your loving-kindness come to me, O Lord, *
 and your salvation, according to your promise.
**then shall I have a word for those
 who taunt me, ***
because I trust in your words.
 Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth, *
 for my hope is in your judgments.
I shall continue to keep your law; *
I shall keep it for ever and ever.
 I will walk at liberty, *
 because I study your commandments.
I will tell of your decrees before kings *
and will not be ashamed.
 I delight in your commandments, *
 which I have always loved.
I will lift up my hands to your commandments, *
and I will meditate on your statutes.

**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 – Ephesians 5: 1-14

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But fornication and impurity of any kind, or greed, must not even be mentioned among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving. ⁵Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷Therefore do not be associated with them. ⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. therefore it says,

‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

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 – Mark 4: 1-20

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

¹Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’ ⁹And he said, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’

¹⁰When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, ‘To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹²in order that

“they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand;
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.”

¹³And he said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? then how will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in the m. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²⁰And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’

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.**

Let us worship the Savior with joy and make our prayer to our heavenly Father.

The magi came from the east to worship your Son: Father, grant to Christians everywhere the spirit of adoration; fill our hearts with a hunger for your holy sacraments, that we might soon taste again what we remember in faith; and teach us to adore your holy presence in the lives of those whom you have created, that in honoring one another, we honor you. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The infant Christ received gifts of gold, incense and myrrh: Father, accept the offering of our hearts and minds at the beginning of this year; accept our fears and hopes as holy gifts, and teach us to give to one another the gift of your kindness and grace. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ: Father, grant an abundance of peace to your world, remembering especially those communities and homes in which violence and dehumanization is found, and for our nation. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

The Holy Family lived in exile and in the shadow of death: Father, look in mercy on all who are poor and powerless, and all who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; give them the courage of the Holy Family who traversed the desert, and send to them caring advocates and friends. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Your Son shared the life of his home and family in Nazareth: Father, protect in your love our neighbors, our families and the communities here assembled, that those we raise up may, like Jesus, be raised in love and with the knowledge of your goodness. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we rejoice in our fellowship with the shepherds, the angels, the magi, the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and all the faithful departed. May they meet us when we too are returned to you. Lord of glory, **hear our prayer.**

In your unfailing love for us and for all people, hear and answer our prayers through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Then the Officiant offers three prayers, and intercessions and thanksgivings, then adds:

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.**

A PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

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.**

Then the Officiant offers a blessing.

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth. And the blessing of God Almighty, the † Father, the † Son, and the † Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **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.**