

St. Francis' Episcopal Church
Evening Prayer – October 18, 2020, 5:00 p.m.
The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text *Reader 2: Italics* **Both: Bold**
If there are 2 lessons, a reading and subsequent canticle may be omitted.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."

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.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

**O gracious light,
pure brightness of the ever living 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.**

Psalm: 114

¹ When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

² *Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.*

³ The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

⁴ The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.

⁵ Why is it, O sea, that you flee? O Jordan, that you turn back?

⁶ *O mountains, that you skip like rams? O hills, like lambs?*

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸ *who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.*

**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.**

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

My child, do not cheat the poor of their living, and do not keep needy eyes waiting. Do not grieve the hungry, or anger one in need. Do not add to the troubles of the desperate, or delay giving to the needy. Do not reject a suppliant in distress, or turn your face away from the poor. Do not avert your eye from the needy, and give no one reason to curse you; for if in bitterness of soul some should curse you, their Creator will hear their prayer. Endear yourself to the congregation; bow your head low to the great. Give a hearing to the poor, and return their greeting politely. Rescue the oppressed from the oppressor; and do not be hesitant in giving a verdict. Be a father to orphans, and be like a husband to their mother; you will then be like a son of the Most High, and he will love you more than does your mother.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[Magnificat: Mary's Song]

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 for ever. Amen

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever

*you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.
The Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

(Canticle 63 written by St Francis)

Most High, all powerful, good Lord, to you be praise, glory, honour and all blessing.

- 2 Only to you, Most High, do they belong and no one is worthy to call upon your name.**
- 3 May you be praised, my Lord, with all your creatures, especially brother sun, through whom you lighten the day for us.**
- 4 He is beautiful and radiant with great splendour; he signifies you, O Most High.**
- 5 Be praised, my Lord, for sister moon and the stars: clear and precious and lovely, they are formed in heaven.**
- 6 Be praised, my Lord, for brother wind and by air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers, by which you give sustenance to your creatures.**
- 7 Be praised, my Lord, for sister water, who is very useful and humble and precious and pure.**
- 8 Be praised, my Lord, for brother fire, by whom the night is illumined for us: he is beautiful and cheerful, full of power and strength.**
- 9 Be praised, my Lord, for sister, our mother earth, who sustains and governs us and produces diverse fruits and coloured flowers and grass.**
- 10 Be praised, my Lord, by all those who forgive for love of you and who bear weakness and tribulation.**
- 11 Blessed are those who bear them in peace: for you, Most High, they will be crowned.**
- 12 Be praised, my Lord, for our sister, the death of the body, from which no one living is able to flee; woe to those who are dying in mortal sin.**
- 13 Blessed are those who are found doing your most holy will, for the second death will do them no harm.**
- 14 Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks and serve him with great humility.**

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.

**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.**

For all those who have fallen victim to hatred and inhumanity, for those loved ones who are left behind to mourn, for the souls of those whose hearts are cold, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the children who are being born into this world of conflict and violence, for women and mothers who suffer needlessly, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all those who have been forced into unemployment, who long to return to work, for all those who struggle to support their families, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the soldiers who are misguided in thinking that their bullets will bring about peace, for those who feel called to conscientiously object to military orders, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the children who cry in their beds at night and wonder “what have I done?”
For the mothers and fathers who must try to explain the unexplainable, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all the children who have died before their time, for the soldiers who allow their uniform to strip them of their humanity, for the healers who are denied the opportunity to use their gifts, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the redemption of souls of both victim and perpetrator, for those who commit themselves to the forgiveness of sins, *Lord, hear our prayer.*

O God, you have taken to yourself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of your incarnate Son: Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of your eternal kingdom; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*