

October 20, 2021 6PM

YouTube Channel

St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church www.stgregoryathens.org | 706.546.7553 | office@stgregoryathens.org 3195 Barnett Shoals Road, Athens, GA 30605

AN ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR EVENING: Proper 24 of Ordinary Time

Let us observe a moment of silence as we enter this sacred time and place.

Our service this evening is from the New Zealand Prayer Book and can be found in the online bulletin.

Officiant: Through Jesus let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God,

the fruit of lips that acknowledge God's name. Hebrews 13.15

Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.

People Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God for ever and ever. AMEN.

Gathering Acclamation

Lord Jesus Christ



PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Officiant Let us pray

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame, burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise in deed and in truth. Amen.

Officiant Let us in silence remember our need for God's forgiveness.

People God of mercy, we have sinned against you and against others.

We have sinned in what we have done and in what we have failed to do.

We are truly sorry. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

who died for our sins, forgive us all that is past

and raise us to newness of life. AMEN.

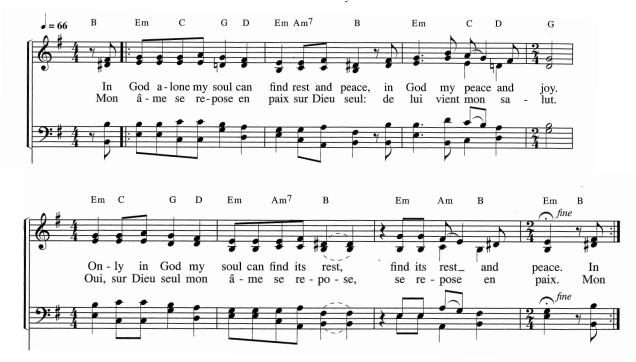
Officiant Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive our sins,

strengthen us by the Holy Spirit, and keeps us in life eternal;

through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. AMEN.

Response

In God alone my soul



SELECTION FROM THE PSALTER

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.
People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

All: 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.

PSALM 119:25-48

Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness

With my heart's ear I hear the injunction to pray for my enemies, even those who persecute me!

How can I, weak and fear-filled, heed this difficult teaching?

Help me to understand the way of your precepts, and the strength to follow through.

My soul is willing, O Merciful One, yet the body would flee.

Who is the enemy from whom I run, but the ego-fears hidden in the shadows within!

Strengthen me according to your Life, lead me gently into the Light.

For I have chosen the way of faithfulness; with trust in You, I will face my own darkness.

I will not run from the illusions which beset me,

so that each one may be transformed in and through your Love.

Help me to know, O Teacher, the path to follow; lead the way and I will come.

In your love is the power to calm the storms of adversity;

show me the power of your forgiving Love.

O that I might learn to bless others selflessly, to be a silent benediction!

Incline my heart to Love Consciousness, and not to gain!

Turn my eyes from the world's temptations, and birth me into new Life.

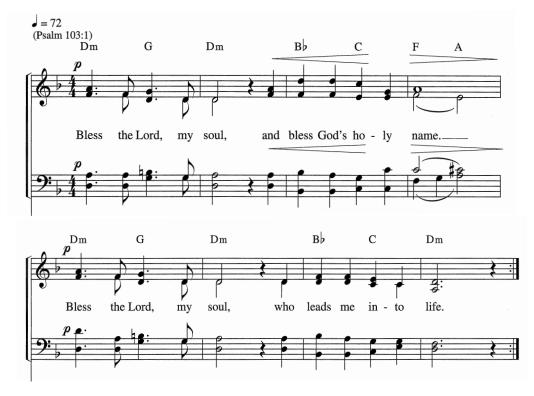
Let me enter into the realm where the aspirations of my soul may become manifest.

Clothe me with compassion that I may answer the cries of those in need.

Do You see how I long to serve, To co-create with You? In your mercy, hear my prayer!

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

Acclamation Bless the Lord



FIRST READING 1 Corinthians 15:51-58

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

'Death has been swallowed up in victory.'

'Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?'

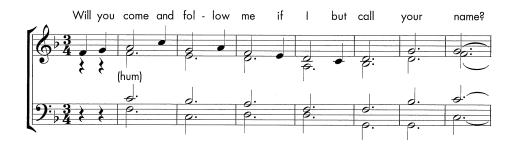
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

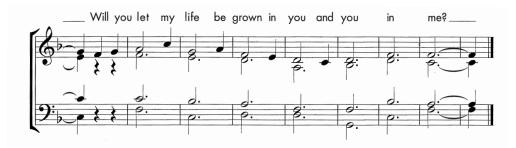
Thanks be to God.

Response The Summons









- 2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?
 - 3. Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
 Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

- 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?
- 5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

 In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.

 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

SECOND READING Matthew 12:1-14

At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, 'Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.' He said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice", you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.'

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, 'Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?' so that they might accuse him. He said to them, 'Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.' Then he said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF SIMEON

BCP 120

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 for ever. Amen.

CONTEMPLATIVE SILENCE

Let us quietly reflect as the Divine Spirit leads.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all this evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. AMEN.

INTERCESSIONS

Make your ways be known upon earth, O God, **your saving power among all peoples.**

Renew your Church in holiness, and help us to serve you with joy.

Guide the leaders of this and every nation, that justice may prevail throughout the world.

Let not the needy, O God, be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Make us instruments of your peace, and let your glory be over all the earth.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations; Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

COLLECT FOR SOCIAL SERVICE

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

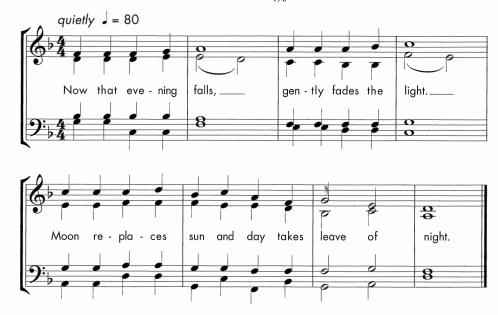
COLLECT FOR EVENING

Gracious God, you have given us much today; grant us also a thankful spirit. Into your hands we commend ourselves and those we love. Be with us still, and when we take our rest renew us for the service of your Son Jesus Christ. AMEN.

In darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy, help us, heavenly Father, to trust your love, to serve your purpose, and to praise your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Closing Acclamation

Now that evening falls



- 2. Gratitude we raise for the day that's gone and for love that stays till dusk is kissed by dawn.
- 3. To the Maker's care we in faith commend all we love and long for, all we still intend.
- 4. Glory be to God, glory to the Son, glory to the Spirit, ever three in one.

FINAL BLESSING

Officiant

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who journey with us. So be swift to love and make haste to be kind.

And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us and who travels with us be with us now and forever. AMEN.

Officiant

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.

People

Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

About Taizé...

Taizé (pronounced "teh-ZAY") is not a musical form but rather a worship style made popular through the work of the ecumenical Christian community in Taizé, France. The retreat center there (founded in 1940 by Brother Roger Schütz) is visited every year by thousands of visitors, and services are held in many languages. The community has become one of the world's most important sites of Christian pilgrimage, with a primary focus on youth. The music of Taizé emphasizes simple phrases, usually lines from Psalms or other pieces of Scripture repeated and sometimes sung in canon. Ecumenical services based on this model and music are held in many churches throughout the world.

RuthElizabeth Conine-Nakano, Officiant Daniel Nakano, Assistant Officiant Calvin Stovall, Piano Stacie Court, Cantor David Stooksbury, Reader

The Rev. Nikki Mathis, Rector
The Rev. Christina Dondero, Deacon
Terri Tillman & Dallas Bono, Viritual Ministers
Jonathan Klein, Organist & Director of Music
Joseph Napoli, Choir Director
Catherine Drewry, Director of Children's Ministries
Kendall M. Kookogey, Parish Administrator
Mark Hein, Buildings & Grounds
Allena Armour, Sexton