*Evening Prayer ~ The Season After Easter ~ 1st Gathering*

*Saint Francis Episcopal Church ~ Scottsbluff, Nebraska*

**Opening Verse**

Leader: Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *~Psalm 74*

**The Confession**

*Because Easter is an event & season of celebration, the confession is omitted.*

**The Invitatory**

Leader: 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.**

**Jubilate** *(Psalm 100)*

**All:**

**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.**

**The Psalter** *(Psalm 135)*

*In unison:*

**Praise the Lord!**

**Praise the name of the Lord;**

**give praise, O servants of the Lord,**

**you that stand in the house of the Lord,**

**in the courts of the house of our God.**

**Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;**

**sing to his name, for he is gracious.**

**For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself,**

**Israel as his own possession.**

**For I know that the Lord is great;**

**our Lord is above all gods.**

**Whatever the Lord pleases he does,**

**in heaven and on earth,**

**in the seas and all deeps.**

**He it is who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth;**

**he makes lightnings for the rain**

**and brings out the wind from his storehouses.**

**He it was who struck down the firstborn of Egypt,**

**both human beings and animals;**

**he sent signs and wonders**

**into your midst, O Egypt,**

**against Pharaoh and all his servants.**

**He struck down many nations**

**and killed mighty kings—**

**Sihon, king of the Amorites,**

**and Og, king of Bashan,**

**and all the kingdoms of Canaan—**

**and gave their land as a heritage,**

**a heritage to his people Israel.**

**Your name, O Lord, endures forever,**

**your renown, O Lord, throughout all ages.**

**For the Lord will vindicate his people,**

**and have compassion on his servants.**

**The idols of the nations are silver and gold,**

**the work of human hands.**

**They have mouths, but they do not speak;**

**they have eyes, but they do not see;**

**they have ears, but they do not hear,**

**and there is no breath in their mouths.**

**Those who make them**

**and all who trust them**

**shall become like them.**

**O house of Israel, bless the Lord!**

**O house of Aaron, bless the Lord!**

**O house of Levi, bless the Lord!**

**You that fear the Lord, bless the Lord!**

**Blessed be the Lord from Zion,**

**he who resides in Jerusalem.**

**Praise the Lord!**

**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.**

**The First Reading** *Isaiah 26:1-15*

Reader: A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

We have a strong city;

he sets up victory

like walls and bulwarks.

Open the gates,

so that the righteous nation that keeps faith

may enter in.

Those of steadfast mind you keep in peace—

in peace because they trust in you.

Trust in the Lord forever,

for in the Lord God

you have an everlasting rock.

For he has brought low

the inhabitants of the height;

the lofty city he lays low.

He lays it low to the ground,

casts it to the dust.

The foot tramples it,

the feet of the poor,

the steps of the needy.

The way of the righteous is level;

O Just One, you make smooth the path of the righteous.

In the path of your judgments,

O Lord, we wait for you;

your name and your renown

are the soul’s desire.

My soul yearns for you in the night,

my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.

For when your judgments are in the earth,

the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness.

If favor is shown to the wicked,

they do not learn righteousness;

in the land of uprightness they deal perversely

and do not see the majesty of the Lord.

O Lord, your hand is lifted up,

but they do not see it.

Let them see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed.

Let the fire for your adversaries consume them.

O Lord, you will ordain peace for us,

for indeed, all that we have done, you have done for us.

O Lord our God,

other lords besides you have ruled over us,

but we acknowledge your name alone.

The dead do not live;

shades do not rise—

because you have punished and destroyed them,

and wiped out all memory of them.

But you have increased the nation, O Lord,

you have increased the nation; you are glorified;

you have enlarged all the borders of the land.

Reader: The word of the Lord. / **People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Response: The First Song of Isaiah** *(Canticle 9; BCP 85; Isaiah 12:2-6)*

*In Unison:*

**Surely, it is God who saves me;**

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

**For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,**

**and he will be my Savior.**

**Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing**

**from the springs of salvation.**

**And on that day you shall say,**

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

**Make his deeds known among the peoples;**

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

**Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,**

**and this is known in all the world.**

**Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,**

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of 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 12:18-27*

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. There were seven brothers; the first married and, when he died, left no children; and the second married the widow and died, leaving no children; and the third likewise; none of the seven left children. Last of all the woman herself died. In the resurrection whose wife will she be? For the seven had married her.”

Jesus said to them, “Is not this the reason you are wrong, that you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God? For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the story about the bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is God not of the dead, but of the living; you are quite wrong.”

Reader: The word of the Lord. / **People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Response: A Song of the Wilderness** *Canticle D (EOW 1); Isaiah 35:1-7, 10*

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,**

**the desert shall rejoice and blossom;**

**It shall blossom abundantly,**

**and rejoice with joy and singing.**

**They shall see the glory of the Lord,**

**the majesty of our God.**

**Strengthen the weary hands,**

**and make firm the feeble knees.**

**Say to the anxious, “Be strong, do not fear!**

**Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you.”**

**Then hall the eyes of the blind be opened,**

**and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.**

**Then shall the lame leap like a deer,**

**and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.**

**For waters shall break forth in the wilderness**

**and streams in the desert;**

**The burning sand shall become a pool**

**and the thirsty ground, springs of water.**

**The ransomed of God shall return with singing,**

**with everlasting joy upon their heads.**

**Joy and gladness shall be theirs,**

**and sorrow and sighing shall flee away**

**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 Apostles’ Creed**

**All:**

**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 (Suffrages A)**

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name…**

Leader: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**People: And grant us your salvation.**

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**People: Let your people sing with joy.**

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**People: For only in you can we live in safety.**

Leader: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Leader: Let your way be known upon earth;

**People: Your saving health among all nations.**

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

**People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

**The Collects**

Leader: Let us pray.

*A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Jesus’ Triumph (BCP 123, slightly modified)*

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who ever give thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **People: Amen.**

*A Prayer for Christ’s Presence (BCP 124)*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. **People: Amen.**

*A Prayer for Agriculture (BCP 824)*

Leader: Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it might produce what is needed for life: Bless those who work in the fields and pastures; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **People: Amen.**

**The Intercessions**

Leader:

Dearly beloved…

I invite your prayers for all who serve our parish communities, our diocese, and the wider church, both lay and ordained. Pray especially for those chosen to stand election as the twenty-eighth Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church: Scott, Daniel, Sean, and Robert. Pray for the candidates, their families and their dioceses…pray for the church.

I invite your prayers for all who hold elected office and those campaigning for office…pray for our governmental leaders and those seeking leadership positions.

I invite your prayers for those who suffer around the world. Pray for the people of the Ukraine, the Holy Land, the Sudan, and other war-torn regions. Pray for those recovering from natural disasters. Pray for those without adequate shelter or enough to eat…pray for protection, pray for peace, pray for healing.

I invite your prayers for agricultural workers. Pray for the safety and health of these workers, particularly in the midst of planting and calving…pray for those whose work keeps others fed.

I invite your prayers for those in need of healing, especially Sam, Paul, Beth, Tom, Richard, Peg, Margaret, Gloria, Chris, Andy, Bart, Sandra, Ken, Suzi, Amanda, Mindy, Larry, Janey and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts…pray for those who face the uncertainty of surgery or illness and those who care for them.

I invite your prayers for those who sorrow at the death of a loved one, especially the families of Mary Jane and Kyle, and for those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts…pray for those who grieve.

*We will take a moment of silence to give you the opportunity to add your prayers to the chat box.*

**Closing Prayer** *A Prayer of Truly Thankful Hearts*

**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.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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

**Note(s) on Resources:** *The bulk of this liturgy is from the Evening Prayer Rite II service of the* Book of Common Prayer *(1979). That service begins on page 115. Some canticles are from Morning Prayer Rite II, which begins on page 75. Canticles labelled with letters are from the supplement* Enriching Our Worship I *(1998).*