

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER, p. 42

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.
People *And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.*
 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.
Officiant Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: O Come, let us adore him.

THE VENITE Psalm 95:1-7, 96:9, p. 44 (said in unison)

*O come, let us sing unto the Lord; **
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.
*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving **
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

*For the Lord is a great God, **
and a great King above all gods.
*In his hand are the corners of the earth, **
and the strength of the hills is his also.
*The sea is his, and he made it, **
and his hands prepared the dry land.

*O come, let us worship and fall down, **
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
*For he is the Lord our God, **
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

*O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; **
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
*For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, **
and with righteousness to judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

THE PSALM APPOINTED: PSALM 103:1-11 (said in unison)

- 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

- 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits.

- 3 *He forgives all your sins **
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 *He redeems your life from the grave **
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;
- 5 *He satisfies you with good things, **
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 *The LORD executes righteousness **
and judgment for all who are oppressed.
- 7 *He made his ways known to Moses **
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 *The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, **
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 *He will not always accuse us, **
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 *He has not dealt with us according to our sins, **
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 *For as the heavens are high above the earth, **
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

*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.

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader A reading from Ecclesiasticus, chapter 48, beginning at the 1st verse.

*W*hen Elijah arose, a prophet like fire, and his word burned like a torch. He brought a famine upon them, and by his zeal he made them few in number. By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens, and also three times brought down fire. How glorious you were, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds! Whose glory is equal to yours? You raised a corpse from death and from Hades, by the word of the Most High. You sent kings down to

destruction, and famous men, from their sickbeds. You heard rebuke at Sinai and judgements of vengeance at Horeb. You anointed kings to inflict retribution, and prophets to succeed you. You were taken up by a whirlwind of fire, in a chariot with horses of fire. At the appointed time, it is written, you are destined to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and to restore the tribes of Jacob. Happy are those who saw you and were adorned with your love! For we also shall surely live.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

CANTICLE 9: The First Song of Isaiah, *Ecce, Deus*, p. 86 (*said 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 for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND LESSON

Reader A reading from Saint Luke's Gospel: chapter 1, beginning at the 5th verse.

*I*n the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and

fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 13: A Song of Praise, *Benedictus es*, p. 90 (*said in unison*)

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

*Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; **

you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

*Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; **

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

*Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; **

on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

*Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; **

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

*Glory to you, beholding the depths; **

in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

*Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; **

we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED, p. 53-54 (*said in unison*)

Officiant I believe in God, the Father almighty,

People maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

*who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the +resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

THE PRAYERS, p. 54

Officiant *The Lord be with you.*

People *And with thy spirit.*

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.*

THE SUFFRAGES A, p. 55

Officiant *O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;*

People *And grant us thy salvation.*

Officiant *Endue thy ministers with righteousness;*

People *And make thy chosen people joyful.*

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People *For only in thee can we live in safety.*
Officiant Lord, keep this nation under thy care;
People *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*
Officiant Let thy way be known upon earth;
People *They saving health among all nations.*
Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*
Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

THE COLLECTS *(prayed by the Officiant)*

The Collect of the Day: Eve of The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

*A*lmighty God, by whose providence thy servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Savior by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for the Renewal of Life, p. 56

O God, the King eternal, who dividest the day from the night and turnest the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep thy law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done thy will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when night cometh, rejoice to give thee thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Mission, p. 58

O God, who hast made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after thee and find thee; bring the nations into thy fold; pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE INTERCESSIONS, p. 58 - 59

We invite your prayers, either silently or aloud...

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING, p. 58 (*said in unison*)

Officiant Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
People *we thine unworthy servants*
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Christopher J. Brayne, *Director of Music Ministry*

THE HOMILY

The Rev'd Mark L. Fitzhugh, *Rector*

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM, p. 59 (*prayed by the Officiant*)

*A*lmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

THE GRACE

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen.*

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Christopher J. Brayne, *Director of Music Ministry*