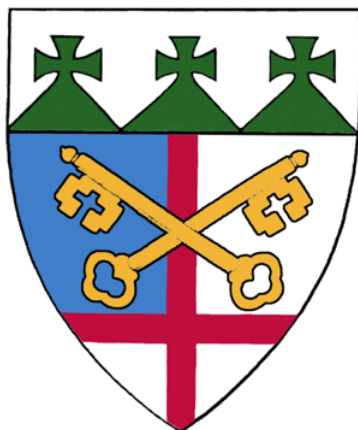


Welcome to

Saint Peter's

Episcopal Church

*A Parish of the Episcopal Church in
Bennington, Vermont | est. 1834*



*We are called to Live, Worship, and Serve
according to Jesus' Word and Example*

Service of Morning Prayer

(Rite II)

*This service comes from our Book of Common Prayer (BCP)
with supplemental materials from Enriching Our Worship (EOW)*

Welcome to St. Peter's

The Episcopal Church, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, is known for its distinctive style of worship that balances scripture, tradition, and reason. Its liturgy, deeply rooted in the *Book of Common Prayer*, creates a home for peoples of ALL identities and backgrounds to worship together in commonality.

Accessibility

We believe that all of God's children deserve access to worship. If you have any hearing challenges, sight challenges, or mobility challenges that might lessen your ability to engage with the service, please tell an usher/welcomer so that we may better assist you.

Bathrooms, Childcare and Coffee Hour

Bathrooms are located just outside our parish hall: the door by the Lady Chapel into the hallway, down and to the left.

We believe the sanctuary is a space for people of all ages. We have child engagement bags available. If you were not offered one by the usher, we apologize, and please ask for one. There is also a rocking chair and small table for anyone's use towards the front, by the Lady Chapel. If necessary, there is also a care room next to the parish hall with a speaker to allow you to stay connected to the service.

We invite you to our coffee hour of hot beverages and sweet treats.

We are an open and loving congregation, and we look forward to you getting to know us at whatever pace feels comfortable to you.

The Daily Office

Morning Prayer: “Matins”

Evening Prayer: “Evensong”

As early as the second century, Christians prayed twice a day: once in the morning and again in the evening. The services consisted of psalms, canticles, prayers and scripture. During the Christian reformations of the 15th & 16th centuries, European churches sought to reestablish the elements of the morning and evening offices in liturgy. Even before he composed the first *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549, Saint Thomas Cranmer prepared drafts of the Daily Office for wider use by the Church of England.

Morning Prayer begins our day with the desire and posture to be better versions of ourselves—the loving and beloved children who God calls us—regardless of our yesterdays.

How do I use the bulletin?

Worship is an occasion of the heart, body, and mind. For this reason, the liturgy contains instructions and visual cues for when to read along, respond to prayer, and sit, kneel, or stand, as is your preference. You are also welcome to sit and take part as you are comfortable. As the Episcopal Church says, “all may, some should, none must.”

Bold lines indicate the people's response, such as responding "Amen" to prayers.

Italic lines indicate instructions for the people, such as when it is proper to stand, sit, or kneel.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

As the Prelude is being played, we have the opportunity to sit quietly, and bring our attention inward, in order to prepare our hearts and minds to worship the Lord, whose resurrection we celebrate every Lord's Day.

All stand as they are able

OPENING HYMN

see hymn board

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Officiant begins the service with one of the appropriate sentences of Scripture.

THE EXHORTATION

BCP, p. 79

The Exhortation recalls the purpose of the daily office: to assemble for worship, to hear God's Word, and to pray. It then calls us into remembrance of our sins.

Officiant: Dearly beloved, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to set forth his praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask,

for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence may be kept.

The people kneel or stand as they are able.

CONFESSION & PRAYER FOR ABSOLUTION

As Episcopalians/Anglicans, we desire humility during worship; acknowledging that we are an imperfect people, casting off shame, and embracing God's love as we strive to be better people.

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.

Silence may be kept.

The people continue to kneel or stand as they are able.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus
Christ, strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in
eternal life.

Amen.

THE INVITATORY & PSALTER

The *Invitatory* or *Morning Psalm* is used to start daily prayer offices. The term derives from the Medieval Latin word meaning "to invite."

Officiant: O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People: **And your glory all the day long.**

THE DOXOLOGY

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].

THE INVITATORY PSALM

BCP, p. 96

Antiphon

The Officiant gives the appropriate Antiphon.

People: **Come let us adore him. [Alleluia]**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God, and we are the people of his
pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Antiphon

The Officiant gives the appropriate Antiphon.

People: Come let us adore him. [Alleluia]

Jubilate

Psalm 100

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.

Antiphon

The Officiant gives the appropriate Antiphon.

People: Come let us adore him. [Alleluia]

Christ our Passover

Pascha Nostrum

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and
truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die
again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, *

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, *

by a man has come also the resurrection of the
dead.

For as in Adam all die, *

so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

Antiphon

The Officiant gives the appropriate Antiphon.

People: Come let us adore him. [Alleluia]

THE APPOINTED PSALM

see bulletin insert

Upon conclusion of the psalm:

People: **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 people are seated.

THE LESSONS & CANTICLES

THE READINGS

see bulletin insert

Upon conclusion of each reading:

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

After each reading a canticle is said or sung.

THE CANTICLES

see hymn board

Canticles are songs taken from scripture, and are read or sung in response to the Old and New Testament lessons, and may complete the thoughts of the reading or respond to its theme. Canticles have been used in Morning or Evening Prayer since the dawn of Christian worship.

All available Canticles are collected together as an Appendix to this service, beginning on page 20.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL

see bulletin insert

THE SERMON

PROFESSION OF FAITH (APOSTLES CREED) *BCP, p. 96*

The Apostles Creed, *Symbolum Apostolorum*, Latin for the “symbols of faith,” is thought to include the essential teaching of the 12 apostles. We say this creed during the Office because it is the creed used for Baptism and thus it is a reminder of the personal nature of our beliefs.

All stand as they are able.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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 people remain standing or kneel as they are able.

Officiant: The Lord be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Traditional

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.

Contemporary

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily
bread.

Forgive us our sins as we
forgive those who sin
against us.

Save us from the time of
trial, and deliver us from
evil.

For the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are
yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

This form of call and response prayer between priest and congregant has been used since the 1600s.

“V” stands for versicles (for the officiant) and “R” stands for responses (from the people).

The following set of suffrages is prayed alternating between the right and left sides of the congregation, or as announced by the officiant.

- V. Help us, O God our Savior.
R. **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**
V. Look upon your congregation;
R. **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**
V. Declare your glory among the nations;
R. **And your wonders among all peoples.**
V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away.
R. **Never forget the lives of your poor.**
V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you.
R. **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**
V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
R. **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Together we sing, Taizé #20

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

The people may be seated.

THE COLLECTS & INTERCESSIONS

Since their presence in the first *Book of Common Prayer* in 1549 by St. Thomas Cranmer, the mandatory use of numerous collects in Morning and Evening Prayer has been a critical part of this manner of worship. It has been, and continues to be, a guide and anchor for the hearts and spirits of the prayerful.

THE COLLECT OF THE WEEK

see bulletin insert

The officiant reads the appointed collect.

All: Amen

THE COLLECT FOR SUNDAYS

BCP, p. 98

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When appropriate, an additional collect may be added.

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

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *see colored-paper insert*

The intercessions have their roots in the practice of the Church in the earliest centuries. They consist of a series of biddings, reflecting the concerns of the parish.
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As these prayers are offered, people are invited to come forward, light a candle and offer their own prayer.

*After the concluding Collect is offered,
the people stand as they are able.*

At the end of the prayers, together we sing from Taizé #20

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer.

When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.

Come and listen to me.

STEWARDSHIP & OFFERTORY

The Offertory is a conscious act of surrendering to God material elements of the worship service, sustenance for the parish & wider community, and us. We question what we find important in life, and we seek to deepen our faith by doing so. We put our offerings on the altar so that God may transform them and us for God's purpose.

*We invite you to give to the work of the church
electronically by scanning this QR code or
visiting us on our website.*



OFFERTORY SENTENCE

As you arrived you were given a token. In addition to what you might normally give, we invite you to place the token in the plate with a prayerful offer of yourself to God.

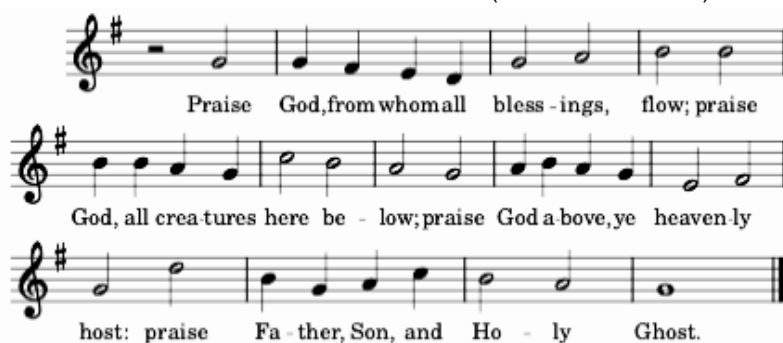
It could be a promise of time, talent, treasure, or resolution; it could even be a prayer of desperation or thanksgiving—a gift of your vulnerability to God.

The Officiant offers one of the appropriate sentences of Scripture.

OFFERTORY HYMN

see hymn board

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (DOXOLOGY)



THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

BCP, p.101

Inspired by a private prayer of Queen Elizabeth I, the General Thanksgiving thanks God for their three-fold activity as creator, preserver, and redeemer.

Almighty God, of boundless mercy, 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 Savior 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 best vision, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. 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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

To sign up for our weekly parish newsletter please email the parish office.

The people stand as they are able.

CLOSING HYMN

see hymn board

THE DISMISSAL & CONCLUDING SENTENCE

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant and People say together one of the following,
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.

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

May God light in us a holy fire: Light a fire that is worthy of our ancestors. Light a fire that is worthy of our children. Light a fire that is worthy of our elders and those who raised us. Light a fire that is worthy of God. Now let us go in peace, lighting a holy fire wherever we go. Amen.

Beloved God: As we offer ourselves to you this day, guide and stir us with your Holy Spirit, that we may become one body, one spirit in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Please join us for coffee hour!

THE CANTICLES

Drawn from the BCP (pp. 85-96) and EOW (pp.25-41)

8 The Song of Moses

Cantemus Domino

Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; *
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; *
the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, *
the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; *
Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled
into the sea; *
the finest of those who bear armor have been
drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; *
they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; *
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the
enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the
gods? *

who is like you, glorious in holiness,
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand; *
the earth swallowed them up.

With your constant love you led the people you
redeemed;
with your might you brought them in safety to

your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them *
on the mount of your possession,
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, *
the sanctuary, O Lord,
that your hand has established.
The Lord shall reign *
for ever and 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.

9 The First Song of Isaiah

Ecce, Deus

Isaiah 12:2-6

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.

10 The Second Song of Isaiah

Quaerite Dominum

Isaiah 55:6-11

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord,
and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
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.

11 The Third Song of Isaiah

Surge, illuminare

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations Will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open; *
by day or night they will never be shut.
They will call you, The City of the Lord, *
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Violence will no more be heard in your land, *
ruin or destruction within your borders.
You will call your walls, Salvation, *
and all your portals, Praise.
The sun will no more be your light by day; *
by night you will not need the brightness of the
moon.
The Lord will be your everlasting light, *
and your God will be your glory.
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.

12 A Song of Creation

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini

Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

One or more sections of this Canticle may be used. Whatever the selection, it begins with the Invocation and concludes with the Doxology.

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the
Lord, *

O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.

Winter and summer, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.

Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.

Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,

and all that grows upon the earth, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *

O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *

and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

III The People of God

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

13 A Song of Praise

Benedictus es, Domine

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.

14 A Song of Penitence

Kyrie Pantokrator

Prayer of Manasseh, 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:
You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.
All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.
But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.
O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal,
sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing
all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

15 The Song of Mary

Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

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.

16 The Song of Zechariah
Luke 1:68-79

Benedictus Dominus Deus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
You, my child,
shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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.

17 The Song of Simeon

Nunc dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

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.

18 A Song to the Lamb
Revelation 4:11; 5:9-10, 13

Dignus es

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created
and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

19 The Song of the Redeemed
Revelation 15:3-4

Magna et mirabilia

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works

have been revealed.
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.

20 Glory to God

Gloria in excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

You are God: we praise you;

You are the Lord: we acclaim you;

You are the eternal Father:

All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;

Father, of majesty unbounded,

your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,

the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free

you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,

bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Canticle A

A Song of Wisdom

Sapientia liberavit

Wisdom 10:15-19,20b-21

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors *
a holy people and a blameless race.
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, *
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.
To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, *
and led them by a marvelous way;
She was their shelter by day *
and a blaze of stars by night.
She brought them across the Red Sea, *
she led them through mighty waters;
But their enemies she swallowed in the waves *
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.
And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your
Name, *
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;
For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute, *
and gave speech to the tongues
of a new-born people.

Canticle B

A Song of Pilgrimage

Priusquam errarem

Ecclesiasticus 51:13-16,20b-22

Before I ventured forth, even while I was very young, *
I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.
In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, *

and I will seek her to the end.
From first blossom to early fruit, *
she has been the delight of my heart.
My foot has kept firmly to the true path, *
diligently from my youth have I pursued her.
I inclined my ear a little and received her; *
I found for myself much wisdom
and became adept in her.
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, *
for I have resolved to live according to her way.
From the beginning I gained courage from her, *
therefore I will not be forsaken.
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, *
therefore have I gained a good possession.
As my reward the Almighty has given me
the gift of language,*
and with it will I offer praise to God.

Canticle C

The Song of Hannah

1 Samuel 2:1-8

My heart exults in you, O God; *
my triumph song is lifted in you.
My mouth derides my enemies, *
for I rejoice in your salvation.
There is none holy like you, *
nor any rock to be compared to you, our God.
Do not heap up prideful words or speak in arrogance; *
Only God is knowing and weighs all actions.

The bows of the mighty are broken, *
but the weak are clothed in strength.
Those once full now labor for bread, *
those who hungered now are well fed.
The childless woman has borne sevenfold, *
while the mother of many is forlorn.
God destroys and brings to life, casts down and raises
up;
gives wealth or takes it away, humbles and dignifies.
God raises the poor from the dust; *
and lifts the needy from the ash heap
To make them sit with the rulers *
and inherit a place of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are God's *
on which the whole earth is founded.

Canticle D

A Song of the Wilderness

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 shall 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.

Canticle E

A Song of Jerusalem Our Mother

Isaiah 66:10-14

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her *
all you who love her,
Rejoice, rejoice with her, *
all you who mourn over her,
That you may drink deeply with delight *
From her comforting breast.
For thus says our God, *
“I will extend peace to her like a river,
the wealth of nations like an overflowing stream.
“You shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and you shall nestle in her lap.
“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort
you; *
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

“You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice, *
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.”

Canticle F

A Song of Lamentation

Lamentations 1:12,16; 3:19,22-24,26

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? *

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
Which was brought upon me, *
inflicted by God’s fierce anger.

For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears, *
for a comforter is far from me,
one to revive my courage.

Remember my affliction and my bitterness, *
wormwood and gall!

The steadfast love of God never ceases, *
God’s mercies never end.

They are new every morning; *
great is your faithfulness.

“God is my portion,” says my soul, *
“therefore will I hope in God.”

It is good that we should wait quietly *
for the coming of God’s salvation.

Canticle G

A Song of Ezekiel

Ezekiel 36:24-28

I will take you from among all nations; *
and gather you from all lands to bring you home.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you; *
and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.
A new heart I will give you *
and a new spirit put within you.
I will take the stone heart from your chest *
and give you a heart of flesh.
I will help you walk in my laws *
and cherish my commandments and do them.
You shall be my people, *
and I will be your God.

Canticle H

A Song of Hosea

Hosea 6:1-3

Come, let us return to our God, *
who has torn us and will heal us.
God has struck us and will bind up our wounds, *
after two days revive us,
On the third day restore us, *
that in God's presence we may live.
Let us humble ourselves, let us strive to know the
Lord,*
whose justice dawns like morning light,
its dawning as sure as the sunrise.
God's justice will come to us like a shower, *
like spring rains that water the earth.

Canticle I
A Song of Jonah
Jonah 2:2-7,9

I called to you, O God, out of my distress,
and you answered me; *
 out of the belly of Sheol I cried,
 and you heard my voice.
You cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, *
 and the flood surrounded me;
 all your waves and billows passed over me.
Then I said, "I am driven away from your sight; *
 how shall I ever look again upon your holy temple?"
The waters closed in over me,
the deep was round about me; *
 weeds were wrapped around my head
 at the roots of the mountains.
I went down to the land beneath the earth, *
 yet you brought up my life from the depths, O God.
As my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, O God,
*
 and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple.
With the voice of thanksgiving, I will sacrifice to you; *
 what I have vowed I will pay, for deliverance
 belongs to the Lord!

Canticle J
A Song of Judith
Judith 16:13-16

I will sing a new song to my God, *
For you are great and glorious,
wonderful in strength, invincible.
Let the whole creation serve you, *
for you spoke and all things came into being.
You sent your breath and it formed them, *
no one is able to resist your voice.
Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, *
rocks melt like wax at your presence.
But to those who fear you, *
you continue to show mercy.
No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, *
but whoever fears the Lord
shall stand in your sight for ever.

Canticle K
A Song of Our Adoption
Ephesians 1:3-10

Blessed are you, the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ, *
for you have blessed us in Christ
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.
Before the world was made,
you chose us to be yours in Christ, *
that we should be holy and blameless before you.

You destined us for adoption as your children
through Jesus Christ,*
 according to the good pleasure of your will,
To the praise of your glorious grace,*
 that you have freely given us in the Beloved.
In you, we have redemption through the blood of
Christ,
 the forgiveness of our sins,
According to the riches of your grace*
 which you have lavished upon us.
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and
insight,*
 the mystery of your will,
According to your good pleasure
which you set forth in Christ,*
 as a plan for the fullness of time,
To gather together all things in Christ,*
 things in heaven and things on earth.

Canticle L

A Song of Christ's Humility

Philippians 2:6-11

Though in the form of God,*
 Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,*
 and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form, he humbled himself*
 and became obedient to death,
 even death on a cross.
Therefore, God has highly exalted him*

and given him the name above every name,
That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, *
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, *
to the glory of God the Father.

Canticle M

A Song of Faith

1 Peter 1:3-4, 18-21

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, *

by divine mercy we have a new birth
into a living hope;

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead, *

we have an inheritance
that is imperishable in heaven.

The ransom that was paid to free us *
was not paid in silver or gold,

But in the precious blood of Christ, *
the Lamb without spot or stain.

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory *
so that we might have faith and hope in God.

Canticle N

A Song of God's Love

1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.
Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.
In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.
In this is love,
not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.
Beloved, since God loved us so much, *
we ought also to love one another.
For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.

Canticle O

A Song of the Heavenly City

Revelation 21:22-26, 22:1-4

I saw no temple in the city, *
for its temple is the God of surpassing strength
and the Lamb.
And the city has no need of sun or moon to light it, *
for the glory of God shines on it,
and its lamp is the Lamb.
By its light the nations shall walk, *

and the rulers of the world
lay their honor and glory there.
Its gates shall never be shut by day,
nor shall there be any night; *
into it they will bring
the honor and glory of nations.
I saw the clean river of the water of life, bright as
crystal, *
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.
The tree of life spanned the river,
giving fruit every month, *
and the leaves of the tree
were for the healing of nations.
All curses cease where the throne of God
and the Lamb stands, and all servants give worship
there; *
there they will see God's face,
whose Name shall be on their foreheads.

Canticle P

A Song of the Spirit

Revelation 22:12-17

"Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord,
"and bringing my reward with me, *
to give to everyone according to their deeds.
"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,*
the beginning and the end."
Blessed are those who do God's commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life, *

and may enter the city through the gates.
“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *
with this testimony for all the churches.
“I am the root and the offspring of David, *
I am the bright morning star.”
“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; *
“Come!” let each hearer reply!
Come forward, you who are thirsty, *
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

Canticle Q

A Song of Christ's Goodness

Anselm of Canterbury

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; *
you are gentle with us
as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, *
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, *
in sickness you nurse us
and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; *
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; *
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, *
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; *
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, *
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

Canticle R

A Song of True Motherhood

Julian of Norwich

God chose to be our mother in all things *
and so made the foundation of his work,
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.
God, the perfect wisdom of all, *
arrayed himself in this humble place.
Christ came in our poor flesh *
to share a mother's care.
Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; *
our true mother, Jesus,
bears us for joy and endless life.
Christ carried us within him in love and travail, *
until the full time of his passion.
And when all was completed
and he had carried us so for joy, *
still all this could not satisfy
the power of his wonderful love.
All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, *
for the love of Christ works in us;
Christ is the one whom we love.

Canticle S

A Song of Our True Nature

Julian of Norwich

Christ revealed our frailty and our falling, *
our trespasses and our humiliations.

Christ also revealed his blessed power, *
his blessed wisdom and love.

He protects us as tenderly and as sweetly
when we are in greatest need; *

he raises us in spirit
and turns everything to glory
and joy without ending.

God is the ground and the substance,
the very essence of nature;*

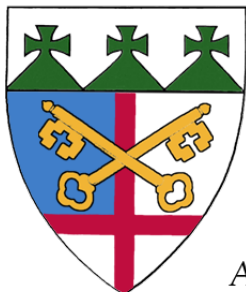
God is the true father and mother of natures.

We are all bound to God by nature, *
and we are all bound to God by grace.

And this grace is for all the world, *
because it is our precious mother, Christ.

For this fair nature was prepared by Christ
for the honor and nobility of all, *

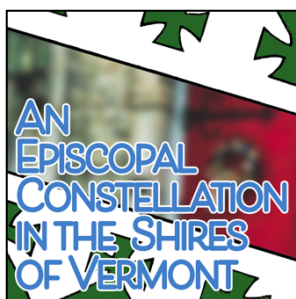
and for the joy and bliss of salvation.



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A parish of the Episcopal Church in Vermont



St. Peter's Episcopal Church
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