



Baccalaureate Evening Prayer

Blessing and Honor for the 2021 Graduates
of the Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Friday, May 21, 2021

5:45 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Evening Prayer from the Breviary of the Order of St. Helena

Those attending gather in the Zoom link, checking that microphones are muted. All are welcome to offer their video presence or an avatar for the time of worship. The people's responses are spoken for all by a designated respondent.

Opening Sentence

The leader says,

Seek the one who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth. *Amos 5:8*

Opening Hymn

Jesus calls us

Voices Found, 128



1 Je - sus calls us;_ o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild,
2 as, of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i -
3 Je - sus calls us_ from the wor - ship of the vain world's
4 In our joys and_ in our sor - rows, days of toil and_
5 Je - sus calls us!_ By thy mer - cies, Sa - vior, may we_



rest - less sea, day by day_ his clear voice_
-le - an lake, turned from home and toil and_
gold - en store; from each i - dol that would
hours of ease, still he calls,_ in cares and_
hear thy call, give our hearts to thine o -



sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"
kin - dred, leav - ing all_ for his dear sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love_ me more than these."
-be - dience, serve and love_ thee best of all.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: *Restoration*, melody from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835

The officiant continues,

O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God,
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

Evening Canticle: *Phos Hilaron*

Hymnal 1982, S-27

O gra - cious Light,
Pure brightness of the everliving God in hea - ven,
O Jesus Christ, ho - ly and bless - ed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the ves - per light, we
sing your praises, O God: Holy and Undi - vi - ded Trin - i - ty.
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voi - ces,
O Word of God, O Giv - er of Life,
and to be glo - ri - fied through all the worlds.

Words: *Phos hilaron*, Greek, 3rd cent.; translation © Order of Saint Helena, used by permission.
Music: Victor Judson Schramm (1944-1984) © Estate of Victor Judson Schramm, used by permission.

The Psalm, 139:1-17

The psalm is read responsively by whole verse.

Leader: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

O God, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O God, know it altogether.

**You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

**Where can I go then from your Spirit; *
where can I flee from your presence?**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"**

Darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

**My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret
and woven in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day,
when as yet there was none of them.

**How deep I find your thoughts, O God; *
how great is the sum of them!**

If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

**Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

Leader: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The First Reading

Micah 6:3-8

“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to 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.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 4:11-16

The gifts Christ gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Magnificat – The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims your greatness, O God;
 my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior, *
 for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed; *
 you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
 and holy is your Name.
You have mercy on those who fear you *
 from generation to generation.

You, O God, have shown strength with your arm, *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham, Sarah and their children for ever.
Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

The Third Reading

Matthew 7:7-12

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets."

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

People Thanks be to God.

Homily

Catherine Meeks, PhD

Executive Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing

The Apostles' Creed

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

Officiant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Our loving God in heaven ,
holy is your Name,
may your reign 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.

Suffrages B

V. That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
R. We entreat you, O God.
V. That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
R. We entreat you, O God.
V. That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
R. We entreat you, O God.
V. That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
R. We entreat you, O God.

- V. That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
R. We entreat you, O God.
- V. That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of [_____ and] all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
R. We entreat you, O God.

The Collects

Collects were written by graduating students.

Holy Creator, who brought us together through a spirit of shared discernment and learning. Who guided us through fire, smoke, disease and hardship. Who stood with us in locked rooms and wept with us in the wake of a great pandemic. We give you thanks and praise for the bonds of love which carried us through and will continue to bind us to one another as we undertake our calls to ministry. All this we ask in the name of the One who is risen and with us always. *Amen. Will Bryant*

Come Holy Spirit, who sets our hearts afire with love for justice, peace and the revealing of God in the breaking of the bread. We thank you for gathering us together as companions on the Way for a season and for being present among us as we have journeyed together as your servants. We ask that you remind us always that while we may not be walking beside each other, we are always walking with each other as we are blown where you have called each of us. All this we ask in the name of God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen. Laura Osborne*

Gracious God, whose mystery is revealed in the incomprehensible gifts we have been given: a life, this precious earth that sustains us, our beloved siblings everywhere, our senses which perceive beauty and goodness in the cosmos and in the eyes of all creatures, and in our capacity to embody love, peace, courage, justice, joy, and tenderness; as we who are graduating tomorrow leave this holy place, guide us to inhabit all that we have been given without holding anything back, all in the service of love. All this we give thanks for and ask for in the name of the One who shows us the way from death into the fullness of life. *Amen. Patricia Rose*

Good and gracious Creator of all we are blessed by the beauty you give to us in the world in which we live. Help us to honor your gifts by inspiring our spirits to show respect, devotion and love to all creatures. Give us wisdom and perseverance to seek your Joy so that all may thrive. We walk in your reflection of Hope. We ask these things in the name of God, through Jesus Christ. *Amen. SuEllen Johnson Pommier*

Loving God, whose creative fire makes all things new, we thank you for the gifts of wisdom and fellowship freely shared among those who gather here. May we joyfully receive your blessing as we move into paths we cannot yet imagine, trusting always in your abundant care. We ask this in the name of your son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*
-Myrna Koonce

O God, who met your servant Jacob at the river bank in struggle: Help us, we pray, that we may meet you not only in our joy and ease and strength, but also in our places of suffering and bewilderment, and that we may hold fast to you until we receive a blessing and a name. We ask this through your Son Jesus who endured as one of us, and we join our prayers with the sighs of our Comforter the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Joanna Benskin*

Holy and Loving Creator may our eyes be always watching for your loving care in the world. And help us to always be moving toward that. May our hands join in the work of your ever-expanding tenderness to the creatures and peoples of this world. Help us to see as you see, to love as you love, and to have faith as you have faith. We ask this in the name of your blessed Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen. Daniel McMillan*



1 Lord of all— hope - ful - ness, — Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all— ea - ger - ness, — Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all— kind - li - ness, — Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all— gen - tle - ness, — Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could des - troy,
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



be there at — our — wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at — our — la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at — our — hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at — our — sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901-1953), from *Enlarged Songs of Praise* © 1931 Oxford University Press.
 Music: *Slane*, Irish ballad melody; adapt. *The Church Hymnary*, 1927

Intercessions

Unmuting microphones or using the chat, people are welcome to share their intercessions for others. At the end of the prayers, the leader prays,

O Holy One, who comes to us as a Child: Let us be born again as children for whom work and play cannot be separated. May we remember that your love is at the root of everything that endures; that we may join you in transforming the world from one that works too hard for what does not last, into a playground of delight and abundance for all of your beloved. We ask this in the name of that Child, our savior and friend. *Amen.*

Jana Sundin

A Prayer of Blessing and Thanks

Peter Vasquez-Schmitt

Let us unite our hearts in prayer and entrust to the hands of the Lord those who will graduate tomorrow.

May God who began this good work in you carry it through to completion, enabling you to use your talents to the fullest.

May God give you the grace to make wise choices and to be faithful to your commitments, always confident in the support of those who love you.

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that you will live deep within your heart and the heart of Christ.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you will work for justice, equality, and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war, so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain into joy.

May God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world, so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

May God continue to bless this entire seminary community, the leadership, faculty and staff that have kept us focused through difficult times.

May your integrity be a gift to the world and may the Spirit of God be with you always. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

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