

# MORNING PRAYER ON THE LAWN

DECEMBER 5, 2021

9:00 AM



St. John's Episcopal Church  
Four Fountain Square  
Larchmont, NY

*Welcome to St. John's Church. We are glad you have joined us for worship today.*

*For everyone's safety and comfort, we thank you for maintaining appropriate social distance.  
Masks are required for all attendees, regardless of vaccination status.*

*If you are visiting or looking for a new church home, please introduce yourself to our clergy  
or an usher. Children are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship services.  
Thank you for turning off your cell phones.*

*You are welcome to join us for worship at any time, including each Sunday at 10:00 am in  
our sanctuary or on Zoom, Sunday at 6:00 pm for an outdoor Eucharist, and for prayer  
services during the week on Zoom. Visit our website for our full schedule  
(stjohnslarchmont.org).*

*If you have a pastoral emergency and need to speak with a priest when the office is closed, you  
may contact the Rev. Lisa Mason on her personal cell phone at (210) 854-4811.*

## **OPENING SENTENCE**

*Officiant*      In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

## **OUR CONFESSION OF SIN**

*Officiant*      Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.  
*Silence may be kept.*

**All**              **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.

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

*People* Amen.

## **PRECES**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

*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 for ever. Amen.  
Alleluia.

## **INVITATORY PSALM: VENITE (PSALM 95:1-7)**

*Officiant* Our King and Savior now draws near:

*All* Come let us adore him.

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!

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.

*Officiant* Our King and Savior now draws near:  
*All* Come let us adore him.

## CANTICLE 16

*The psalm is read responsively by the half verse.*

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.**

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11**

*Reader*            A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                      **Thanks be to God.**

## **CANTICLE 11: THE THIRD SONG OF ISAIAH** *(Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19)*

*The canticle is read responsively by the half verse.*

**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.

*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 for ever. Amen.

## **SECOND READING: LUKE 3:1-6**

*Reader*                      A reading from Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*People*                      The Word of the Lord.  
                                     **Thanks be to God.**

## 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 LORD'S PRAYER

*All remain standing.*

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

*Officiant* Let us pray.  
*All* 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.

## SUFFRAGES

*All remain standing.*

*Officiant* Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
*People* **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

*Officiant* Day by day we bless you;  
*People* **We praise your name for ever.**

*Officiant* Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
*People* **Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
*People* **For we put our trust in you.**

*Officiant* In you, Lord, is our hope;  
*People* **And we shall never hope in vain.**

## COLLECTS

*All remain standing.*

*Officiant* Let us pray.  
Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*All* **Amen.**

*Officiant* 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.

**All**                    **Amen.**

*Officiant*            Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name.

**All**                    **Amen.**

## **INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVINGS**

*All remain standing.*

*Officiant*            Have compassion on all who are suffering the effects of the pandemic, and all who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Amy, Andrea, Ann, April, Bernadette, Betsy, Blanche, Bob, Brian, Burt, Caitlin, Carol, Carolyn, Chip, Clementine, Collette, David, Dotty Lee, Ellen, George, Harold, James, Jennifer, Jim, Kathleen, Laura, Lori, Lynn, Masood, Matt, Orlo, Patricia, Paul, Peggy, Peter, Rachel, Randy, Sandy, Sara Lee, Sheila, Susie, T.J., Ten Lin, and Tom, give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for all who have died, especially Theresa Steinmetz, and all those who mourn.

**People**                **Amen.**

## **GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

**All**                    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.

## **DISMISSAL & GRACE**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

***People*** Thanks be to God.

*Officiant* May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through  
the power of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 15:13*)

***All*** Amen.