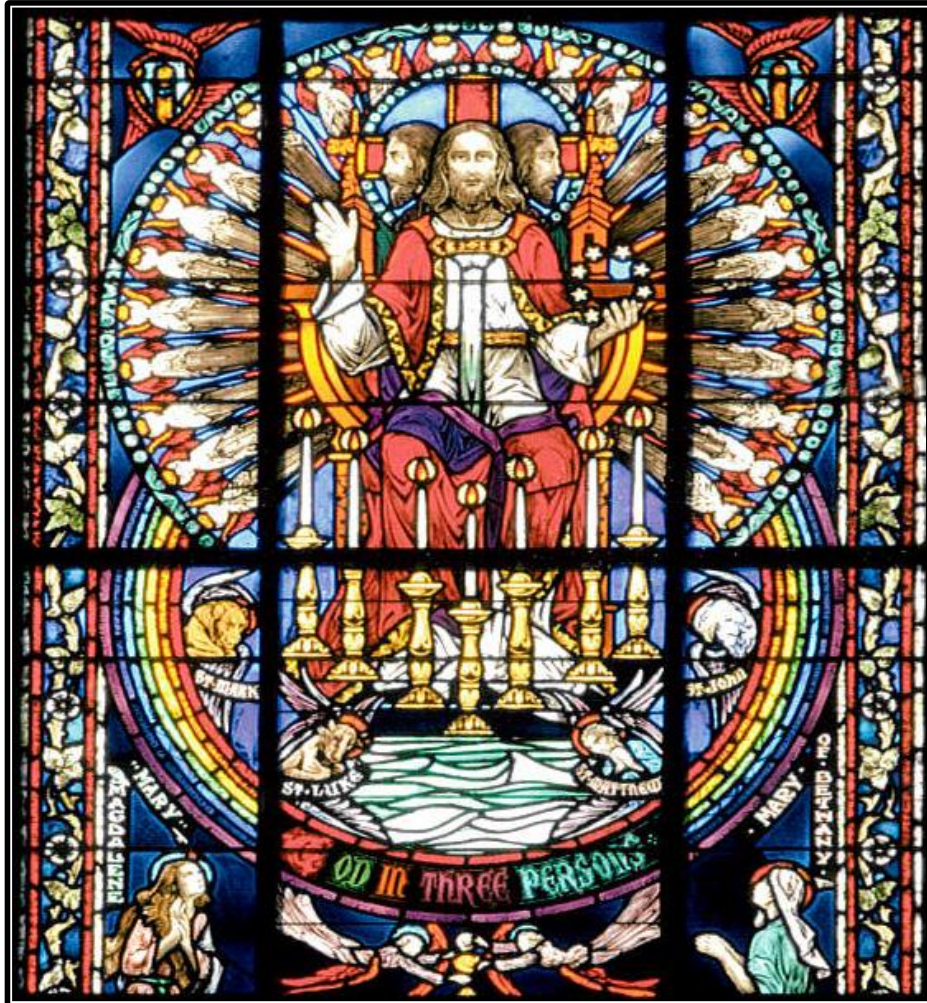


A Holy History

A Prayer Vigil in Search of Our New Rector



December 4 – 5, 2021

10:00am to 10:00am

All Saints Church

Chevy Chase, Maryland

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.

– Matthew 6:33

A Prayer of St. Augustine

Remember, Christian soul, that thou hast this day, and every day of thy life:

God to glorify.
Jesus to imitate.
A soul to save.
A body to mortify.
Sins to repent of.
Virtues to acquire.
Hell to avoid.
Heaven to gain.
Eternity to prepare for.
Time to profit by.
Neighbors to edify.
The world to despise.
Devils to combat.
Passions to subdue.
Death, perhaps, to suffer.
Judgment to undergo.

Amen.

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About this Prayer Guide

Using the Prayer Guide

This booklet is intended to aid and inspire you as you come to God in prayer. We hope that God will use it to focus your heart and mind on Jesus and His will for our parish. He is our King who has brought us together to proclaim the Gospel, love His people, and worship His holy Name. May our Lord guide us both individually and collectively to seek His Kingdom and His righteousness.

At a steady pace, you may be able to pray through this Prayer Guide in about an hour, but do not feel the need to rush. You may focus more on the themes that stir your heart most and simply end when the hour is over, or you may wish to continue your prayers even after the clock has chimed. It is best, however, if you begin with the Opening Reflections and finish with the Closing Reflections, as they provide an important framework for our prayers.

For this Prayer Vigil, we have once again incorporated art and music into the guide along with selections from Scripture and the *Book of Common Prayer*.[†] Take some time to meditate on the images — their colors, symbols, stories, etc. — as they may inspire your prayers. For the sacred music, simply click on the link provided, and your device should play the music automatically. Then listen or sing as the Spirit leads.

This Prayer Guide is divided into three main sections, with art, music, readings, and prayers designed to lead us into both thanksgiving and humility. Thanksgiving as we reflect on what God has done and is doing in our parish and humility as we seek His will regarding our next Rector. In addition, we have peppered this Vigil with brief reflections on the character of God so that we can meditate on His goodness, wisdom, love, etc. We are praying that God would use these meditations to attune our heart to His.

Acknowledgments

This Prayer Vigil would not be possible without the work of numerous parishioners, whose prayers, ideas, and labor are invaluable. Special thanks to Cynthia Bryant, Tam Bryfogle, Dan Buckingham, and Nancy Gray and for compiling all the readings and prayers; Peter Crisafulli and Gary Wieder for providing musical selections; Rev. Mac Stewart for providing artwork; and Kathleen Dillon for writing, “In the Midst of a Holy History.”

May God Bless You and Our Parish Greatly as We Pray Today!

[†] All Scripture citations are from the English Standard Version (ESV) unless otherwise noted. Prayers are taken from the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) unless otherwise noted.

In the Midst of a Holy History

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19–22

It is not that God is the spectator and sharer of our present life, howsoever important that is; but rather that we are the reverent listeners and participants in God's action in the sacred story, the history of the Christ on earth. And only in so far as we are there, is God with us today also.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*, 1954

Past

Today, we stand with praise and thanksgiving on the foundation of faith built by those before us. Our parish was founded in 1897. The first cornerstone of our building was laid in 1901 with expansions in 1913, 1920 and 1926, but since the beginning, Christ has been the cornerstone of our church and faith. Even during the Great Depression and the Great World Wars, we sought to do the Lord's will by providing financial support as well as food, clothing, time, and volunteers to those in need. Most importantly, in both good times and bad, we have always proclaimed that Jesus Christ is our Lord and King! Indeed, as Father Ed Kelaher reminded us on his last Sunday here, "You have Jesus!" So long as that is true, we cannot fail.

Present

Jesus knew who he was, the Son of God sent into the world to announce the truth. Throughout His earthly ministry, He lived with integrity in the difficult times. He never let public opinion sway him but kept His eye focused on the goal. All Saints Church stands at the crossroads between the past and future. Our clergy, staff, Vestry, and parishioners stand strong during this transition, and, like Christ, we know who we are: the church of Jesus Christ and His light to the world.

Let us reflect with thanksgiving and praise for God's present provisions and grace. He has blessed us with a talented and godly Vestry; provided us new part time priests to come and serve in such a time of transitions; called Father BJ as our Interim Rector and Father Matthew to lead so many ministries; and has given us an amazing staff who put their entire faith in God, knowing He will continue to do great things within our midst beyond our doors.

Future

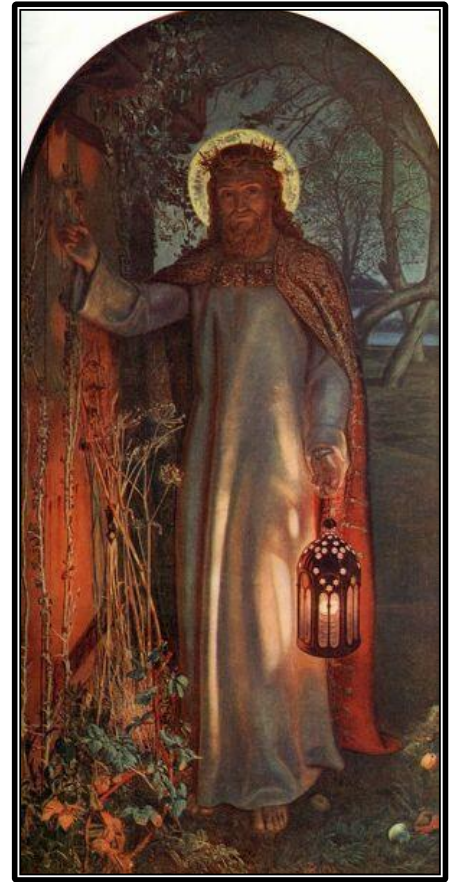
The very day of His resurrection, Jesus met two of his disciples along the way to Emmaus as they grappled to understand the events of the day. The women told of seeing Jesus alive. Upon arrival at their destination, the men invited Jesus to eat with them. Only upon Jesus blessing the

bread and breaking were their eyes opened to who stood before them. They exclaimed, "Didn't our hearts burn within us while he was speaking with us on the road, while he was explaining the scriptures to us?" (Lk 24:32)

As All Saints Church seeks for a new rector to lead this congregation, let us ask God to open our eyes and place His burning desire in our heart for the new shepherd of this flock. The foundation has been laid for us to be a kingdom church. Now let us build on that strong foundation and become even greater salt and light in the world. Lord, bring to this your church the man or woman who will see your vision and lead us on the next part of your holy journey.

Coming Together in Prayer

So as we stand on the firm foundation of what God has done with us in the past, seeing how He is at work in us in the present, and eagerly looking forward to where He will lead us in the future, let us come together in prayer to worship the King eternal and seek His favor.



Let's specifically pray for:

- Our Vestry as they labor in putting together the Parish Profile, write job descriptions, interview candidates, call a candidate, all while continuing to manage the parish,
- Our clergy and staff as they continue the good work God has called them to do, ensuring our ministries grow, the Gospel is proclaimed, and lives are transformed,
- Our parishioners to remain faithful, filled with joy, and empowered by the Holy Spirit in their personal, professional, and parish lives, and
- Our new Rector to begin discerning God's call to this parish.

Let us also give thanks to God for:

- All that He has done, is doing, and will do in and through All Saints Church,
- Choosing the Rector that He wants us to lead our parish in the years to come, and
- Granting us salvation in Jesus Christ and guiding us by His Holy Spirit.

God is good; Jesus is King, and the Holy Spirit is at work. Let us rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Opening Reflections

From the Catechism

The Church

Q. How is the Church described in the Bible?

A. The Church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. How does the Church pursue its mission?

A. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.

Q. Through whom does the Church carry out its mission?

A. The church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.

The Ministry

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Q. What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter?

A. The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.

Q. What is the duty of all Christians?

A. The duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.

Opening Prayers

Prayer of St. Augustine (SAPB)

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that all my thoughts may be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that all my work too may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer (BCP)

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.*

A Prayer for Quiet Confidence (BCP)

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer of Thanksgiving (Written by Nancy Gray)

Dear Lord, we thank you for the godly leadership of All Saints Church in the recent past and challenging present inspired by your Holy Spirit. We put our trust in your wise and faithful leadership. We trust in your sovereignty! Come Lord Jesus, guide us! *Amen.*

A Song: Sovereign over Us

[\(Click here to listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. There is strength within the sorrow
There is beauty in our tears
And you meet us in our mourning
With a love that cast out fear
You are working in our waiting
You're sanctifying us
When beyond our understanding
You're teaching us to trust

Chorus: Your plans are still to prosper
You have not forgotten us
You're with us in the fire and the flood
You're faithful forever
Perfect in love
You are sovereign over us

2. You are wisdom unimagined
Who could understand your ways
Reigning high above the heavens
Reaching down in endless grace
You're the lifter of the lowly
Compassionate and kind
You surround and you uphold me
And your promises are my delight

3. Even what the enemy means for evil
You turn it for our good
You turn it for our good and for your glory
Even in the valley, you are faithful
You're working for our good
You're working for our good and for your
glory

Reflecting on the Character of God

God Is Just

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Psalm 33:5

He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

God is Love

John 15:12–13

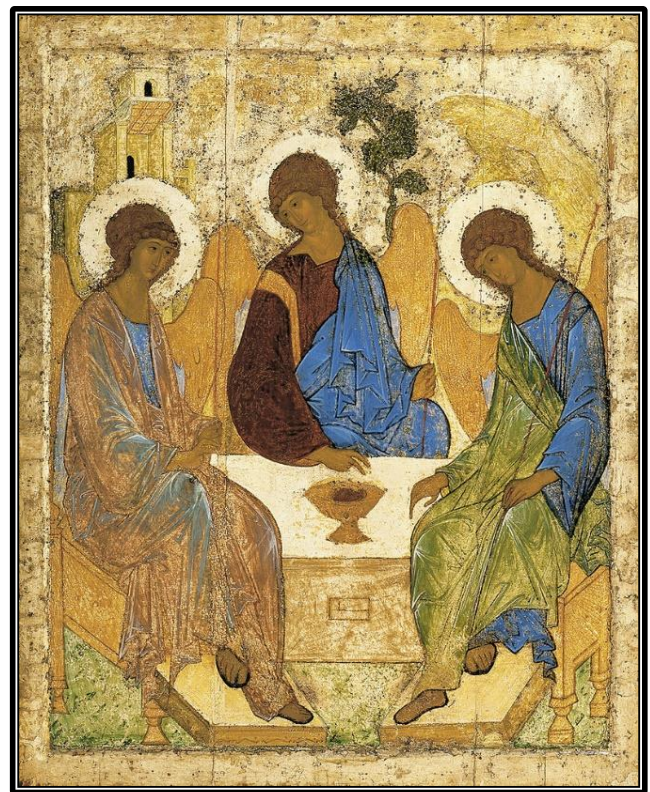
This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.



Praying for God to Build our Church and Kingdom Community



Opening Verses for Meditation

Ephesians 2:19-22

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 23:1-3

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building

Lessons and Psalms

Ezra 3:10-12

And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel. And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

"For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel."

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid, though many shouted aloud for joy,

Psalm 93

The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty;
the Lord is robed; he has put on strength
as his belt.

Yes, the world is established; it shall never
be moved.

Your throne is established from of old;
you are from everlasting.

The floods have lifted up, O Lord,
the floods have lifted up their voice;
the floods lift up their roaring.

Mightier than the thunders of many waters,
mightier than the waves of the sea,
the Lord on high is mighty!

Your decrees are very trustworthy;
holiness befits your house,
O Lord, forevermore.

Matthew 16:13-2

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loose in heaven."

Collects and Prayers

For the Church

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. *Amen.*

For the Church

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Hymn: The Church's One Foundation

[\(Click here to listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. The church's one Foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is His new creation,
by water and the Word;
from heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.

2. Elect from ev'ry nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

3. Tho' with a scornful wonder,
men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;

till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

5. Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with Thee.

Reflecting on the Character of God

God Is Patient

Psalm 103:8

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.

1 Corinthians 13:4

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or
boast; it is not arrogant

2 Peter 3:15

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation

God Is Good

Exodus 33:17–23

Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And
he said, "I will make all my goodness pass
before you and will proclaim before you my
name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to
whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."



Psalm 107:1

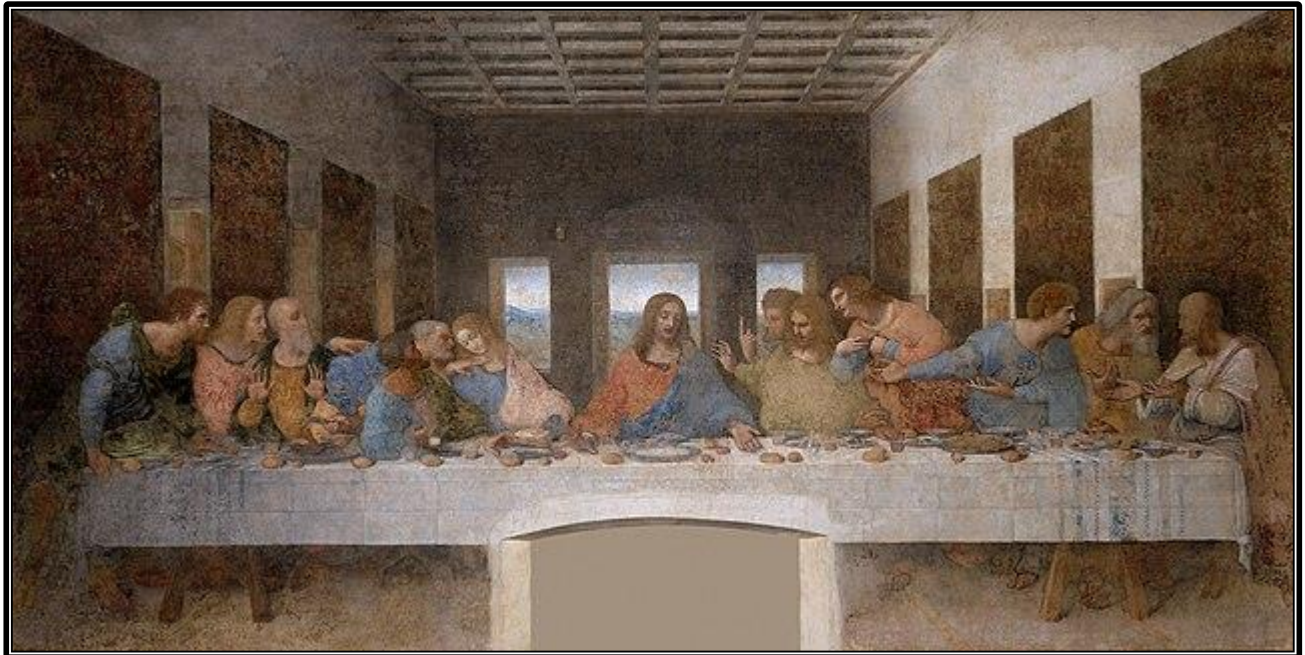
Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Psalm 91:3-6

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor the destruction that wastes at noonday.



Artwork: "The Last Supper" Leonardo da Vinci, 15th century Milan, Italy

Giving Praise and Thanksgiving to God for Our Clergy, Vestry, Staff and Community



Opening Verses for Meditation

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Psalm 95:1-3

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods."

Artwork: *Christ calls Apostles Peter and Andrew as fishermen*, Mosaic cycle, Sant' Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy 6th century, AD

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and thereby put me to the test," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.

Genesis 22:14

So Abraham called the name of that place "The Lord Will Provide"; as it is said to this day," On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Daniel 2:23

To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and now have made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the King's matter.

Lessons and Psalms

Ephesians 1:15-19

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.

Psalm 100:1-5

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his
pasture.

For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Luke 17:12-19

And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when

he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Collects and Prayers

From the Community of Aidan and Hilda

Lord, You are my island, in your bosom I rest.
You are the calm of the sea, in that peace I stay.
You are the deep waves of the shining ocean,
With their eternal sound I sing.
You are the song of the birds, in that tune is my joy.
You are the smooth white sand of the shore,
In you is no gloom.
You are the breaking of the waves on the rock,
Your praise is echoed in the swell.
You are the Lord of my life; in you I dwell.

Proper 6

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

For the Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of your grace: and, that they may truly please you, pour upon them the continual dew of your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Hymn: Now Thank We All our God

[\(Click here to listen on YouTube\)](#)

1. Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms

has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

3. All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

Reflecting on the Character of God

God Is Impartial

Acts 10:34–35

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

Psalm 19:1–4

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
here is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

God Is Infinite

Jeremiah 23:24

“Can a man hide himself in hiding places so I do not see him?” declares the Lord. “Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?” declares the Lord.

Psalm 90: 2

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Isaiah 40:28

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Romans 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!



Artwork: "Assumption of the Virgin" by Antonio da Correggio, c. 1530, Cathedral of Parma, Italy

Praying for God to Open our Eyes and Align our Hearts with His



Opening Verses for Meditation

Jeremiah 33:33

“Call unto Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Romans 12: 2

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting!

Colossians 3:14

Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Psalm 78:72

With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Lessons and Psalms

1 Samuel 16:1–13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes

here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you;
my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is
no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than
life,
my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich
food,
and my mouth will praise you with joyful
lips,

when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the
night;

for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I will sing
for joy.

My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.

James 1:5-6

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind."

John 15:9-17

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another."

Collects and Prayers

Prayer of Good Courage (Eric Milner-White, *Daily Prayer*, p. 14)^{†††}

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the Election of a Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this Parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect after the Prayers of the People #8

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Song: Give Us Clean Hands

[\(Click here to listen on YouTube\)](#)

We bow our hearts
We bend our knees
Oh, Spirit come make us humble

We turn our eyes
From evil things
Oh, Lord we cast down our idols

So give us clean hands
And give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another

And give us clean hands
And give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another

Oh, God let us be
A generation that seeks
Who seeks Your face, oh, God of Jacob

Oh, God let us be
A generation that seeks
Who seeks Your face, oh, God of Jacob

^{†††}Originally published: Oxford University Press, 1941

Reflecting on the Character of God

God Is Holy

Exodus 3:3

Take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.

Psalm 93:9

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

1 Samuel 2:2

There is no one holy like the Lord, indeed, there is no one besides you, nor is there any rock like our God.

God Is Righteous

1 Chronicles 12:6

Then the princes of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The LORD is righteous."

Deuteronomy 32:4

"The rock, His work is perfect,
For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,
Righteous and upright is He.

Psalm 145:17–18

The LORD is righteous in all his ways
And kind in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Isaiah 32:17

And the work of righteousness will be peace,
And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.



Concluding Reflections

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Closing Prayers

Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if you receive my words
and treasure up my commandments with you,
making your ear attentive to wisdom
and inclining your heart to understanding;
yes, if you call out for insight
and raise your voice for understanding,
if you seek it like silver
and search for it as for hidden treasures,
then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.

Psalm 139:1-12, 17-18, 23-24

O Lord, you have searched me and known me!
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.

Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light about me be night,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is bright as the day,
for darkness is as light with you.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!
If I would count them, they are more than the sand.

I awake, and I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart!

Try me and know my thoughts!

And see if there be any grievous way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting!

For the Sacred Scriptures

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

For the Parish

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Paraphrase of Proverbs 3:5 (Written by Nancy Gray)

O Lord we trust in you with all our hearts. We lean not on our own understanding; in all our ways we acknowledge you and you will make our path straight. Amen.

For the Answering of Prayer

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and to the setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Song: What a Beautiful Name

[\(Click here to listen on YouTube\)](#)

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in You our Christ

What a beautiful Name it is
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now?

What a wonderful Name it is
What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a wonderful Name it is
Nothing compares to this

What a wonderful Name it is
The Name of Jesus
Death could not hold You
The veil tore before You
You silenced the boast of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring
The praise of Your glory
For You are raised to life again

You have no rival
You have no equal
Now and forever, God You reign
Yours is the kingdom
Yours is the glory
Yours is the Name above all names

What a powerful Name it is
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a powerful Name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful Name it is
The Name of Jesus

Thank you for Praying; Now Let's See What God will Do!

