

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lessons

A reading from Exodus

Exodus 33:12-23

[Moses went up Mt. Sinai to speak with the Lord.]

Moses said to the Lord, "I know that you have told me to lead these people to the land you promised them. But you have not told me who my assistant will be. You have said that you are my friend and that you are pleased with me. If this is true, let me know what your plans are, then I can obey and continue to please you. And don't forget that you have chosen this nation to be your own." The Lord said, "I will go with you and give you peace." Then Moses replied, "If you aren't going with us, please don't make us leave this place. But if you do go with us, everyone will know that you are pleased with your people and with me. That way, we will be different from the rest of the people on earth." So the Lord told him, "I will do what you have asked, because I am your friend and I am pleased with you." Then Moses said, "I

pray that you will let me see you in all of your glory.” The Lord answered: I am the Lord, and I show mercy and kindness to anyone I choose. I will let you see my glory and hear my holy name, but I won’t let you see my face, because anyone who sees my face will die. There is a rock not far from me. Stand beside it, and before I pass by in all of my shining glory, I will put you in a large crack in the rock. I will cover your eyes with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will take my hand away, and you will see my back. You will not see my face.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm for this morning is Psalm 96, verses 1 through 9. It can be found in your bulletin and in your prayer books on page 725. Let us read it responsively by half verse.

Psalm 96:1-9

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;

**proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations

and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;

he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;

ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;

bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 22:15-22

The Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax."

And they brought him a denarion. “Whose image and inscription is this?” he asked. “Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said, “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Prayers of the People 10-18

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their need.

Imprint the blessed image of your dear Son upon the Church. By faithful proclamation of your Word, and through right administration your Sacraments, use your Church to lead many people from vain idols to life-giving trust in you, the true and only God.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help this congregation to render to you all honor, glory, worship, and praise. Help us to render to one another the kindness, forgiveness and compassion which is their due. And help us to render to our neighbors the love, respect, and justice which you command.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Until your peace reigns undisturbed throughout the world, direct the thoughts, words and actions of our military personnel, police, first responders, and all who risk their lives to bring safety and justice to others. Prosper all they do that serves your will. Bring healing to the wounded, hope to their families, and honor to all who have honorably served.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We ask that you anoint the leaders of this and every nation upon earth. Equip them to do whatever accomplishes your will for all who are captives to injustice, poverty, or violence. As many of us are preparing to vote in the upcoming election, teach us to put our trust in you, to seek your will for the nation, and to live honorably, peaceably, and kindly with one another.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Comfort especially: Downs IV, Holden, Heidi, Cynthia, Nikolai and Brian. Grant healing and recovery for all who have gone through surgery especially Jim. Give peace and strength for

those going through cancer treatments, especially John, Victoria, Andres, Ginny, Alex and Colleen. Visit and comfort all who are under the care of skilled nursing, especially Bob, Ruth, Timothy, Don, Barbara and Mike. Be near to all who are in hospice care.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Ascribe to the Lord, all families of every peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power. With gratitude and affection, we entrust our faithful departed into your care. *Silence*

Continue in us the work, begun at our Baptism, which fashions us into the blessed likeness of your dear Son. Grant us faith, through your Holy Spirit, to commend ourselves, one another, and our whole lives to Christ our Lord. Bring us into that eternal Kingdom where we shall see him face to face, and shall behold his image, perfectly restored, in the faces of everyone whom you have redeemed

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Recessional Hymn

O God, Beyond All Praising

O God, beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
For we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end.
We lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
We honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown;
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still;
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.