He Is Risen
Celebrate the Savior

April 12, 2020  9:00 AM
Easter Sunday  Year A

Reflecting Christ’s Image Through Love, Inclusion, and Service
The service of Morning Prayer has roots in the regular daily prayer in monastic and early Christian communities. In many parts of the Anglican Communion, Morning Prayer (or “Matins”, from the Latin term for morning) has been the principal Sunday service for faithful communities, and this service has a rich history of use in The Episcopal Church.

Welcome

Announcements

The service of Morning Prayer immerses us in scripture, and the Opening Sentences provide a scriptural call to worship which varies with the season or occasions.

Opening acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Our liturgy begins with the liturgy of light and the blessing of the Paschal Candle, which symbolizes Christ’s breaking of the darkness of sin and death to bring us all the Easter victory. The Paschal Candle will shine as our symbol of the resurrection throughout the Easter season.

The Blessing of the Paschal Candle

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you are like a refiner’s fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter celebration so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: O God, you are like a refiner’s fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

All: By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.
Lighting of the Paschal Candle

Celebrant: We are called to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.
All: May the light of Christ who rises this day in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Celebrant: Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lit candle, so that all who share in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymns
Jesus Christ is Risen Today
#207

Alleluia Chorus

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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. Amen.

We greet God and one another with praise of God who is known to us as our Lord.
Celebrant: Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: 
Come let us adore him. Alleluia

We normally begin the immersion in scripture which is a primary feature of the church’s daily prayer by saying an Invitatory Psalm, a short excerpt from the book of Psalms. However, in the week of Easter we substitute this for excerpts from Holy Scripture that proclaim Christ as our Passover lamb.

Christ our Passover
1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22

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.
So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *
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.

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; his mercy endures for ever.
Let Israel now proclaim, "God’s mercy endures for ever."
The Lord is my strength and my song, and is my salvation.
There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous:
I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord.
Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them;
I will offer thanks to the Lord.
I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.
The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Response to the Psalm
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Word of God

A Reading from the book of Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.
Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.


People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.
We now turn our attention to responding to the Word we have been immersed in, with affirmation that these stories are part of our Christian story, and with prayer. As part of our response to the Word of God in our lives, we proclaim The Apostles Creed, the earliest known formal statement of Christian faith, found in ancient liturgies of baptism. The term “creed” comes from the Latin Credo, “I believe.”

The Apostles’ Creed

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.

We continue by praying together, first in the traditional form of the Lord’s Prayer, based on the way that Jesus taught his first disciples to pray (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4).
THE PRAYERS

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Let us pray.

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.

The suffrages are a responsive form of prayer for the needs of the world and of the gathered community composed almost entirely of scriptural excerpts, especially from the Psalms.

Suffrages

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
R. And grant us your salvation.
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
R. Let your people sing with joy.
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
R. For only in you can we live in safety.
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
V. Let your way be known upon earth;
R. Your saving health among all nations.
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.
The Collect of the Day

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Mission

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. Amen.

The congregation is invited to offer to God their prayers of intercession or thanksgiving; if you are praying from paper rather than a recording, take some time now to quietly offer your concerns, hopes, and needs to God.

Exchange of Peace

Then the Officiant says to the people:

The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: And also with you.
CONCLUDING PRAYERS AND SENDING FORTH

We affirm our offering and finish our shared work of prayer in The General Thanksgiving, an expression of gratitude and commitment to God.

The General Thanksgiving  BCP page 101

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.

Our optional “Prayer of St. Chrysostom” affirms God’s commitment in Jesus to be present in every gathering of Christians and asks God to respond to the fullness of the prayers we have offered today. We pray it today to affirm our confidence that Jesus is as present when we gather electronically in his name as when we gather physically.
A 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.

We conclude as we began, with a sentence of scripture. In this case, Morning Prayer offers a choice of several short passages that contain a benediction, or bestowing of a blessing upon the people.

Benediction
May Christ, who in bursting from the grave and won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

+ Sending Forth into the World
Presider: May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen you in hope, enrich you with his love, and fill you with joy in the faith.
People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Recessional Hymn
The Day of Resurrection
The Choir Of Gloucester Cathedral