

## **Opening Sentence**

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8*,

## **Confession**

*Officiant says:* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. *Amen.*

*Absolution:*

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

## **Opening Versicle**

*Officiant:* O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

*People:* And your glory all the day long.

## **Doxology**

*Officiant and People:*

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

## **Venite**

Our God and Savior now draws near: O come let us worship

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you are a great God; \*

you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it, \*

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God,

and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. \*

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Let us listen today to God's voice:

Harden not your hearts,

as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,

when they tempted me.

They put me to the test, \*

though they had seen my works.

Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \*

"This people are wayward in their hearts;

they do not know my ways."

So I swore in my wrath, \*

"They shall not enter into my rest."

### **Morning Psalm**

Psalm 67:1-5

O God, be merciful to us and bless us, \*

show us the light of your countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, \*

your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*

for you judge the peoples with equity

and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*

let all the peoples praise you.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **The Lessons**

*After the Readings, the Reader says:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

### **Old Testament lesson:**

#### **A Song of Pilgrimage**

Before I ventured forth,

even while I was very young, \*

I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.

In the forecourts of the temple I asked for her, \*

and I will seek her to the end.

From first blossom to early fruit, \*

she has been the delight of my heart.

My foot has kept firmly to the true path, \*

diligently from my youth have I pursued her.

I inclined my ear a little and received her; \*  
I found for myself much wisdom and became adept in her.  
To the one who gives me wisdom will I give glory, \*  
for I have resolved to live according to her way.  
From the beginning I gained courage from her, \*  
therefore I will not be forsaken.  
In my inmost being I have been stirred to seek her, \*  
therefore have I gained a good possession.  
As my reward the Almighty has given me the gift of language,\*  
and with it will I offer praise to God.

#### **Epistle Lesson:**

#### **A Song of the Wilderness**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, \*  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
It shall blossom abundantly, \*  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, \*  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands, \*  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! \*  
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, \*  
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.  
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, \*  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness \*  
and streams in the desert;  
The burning sand shall become a pool \*  
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.  
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, \*  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, \*  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **Gospel Lesson:**

### **The Sermon**

### **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.

*Officiant:* Hear our cry, O God.

*People:* And listen to our prayer.

*Officiant:* Let us pray

### **Prayers of the People**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy."

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For our Bishop Craig, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For our President and President Elect, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For this city of Alexandria for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the victims of the pandemic and their families, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.  
*Lord, have mercy.*

In the communion of saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to  
Christ our God.  
*To thee, O Lord our God.*

### **Dismissal**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.  
Amen.