

CELTIC EVENING PRAYER
JUNE 23, 2021

Officiant: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***ALL:* Send us, O Lord, the light of your truth; dispel the darkness of sin and ignorance.**

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and God's children.

***ALL:* We are the people who helped make the wood on which you were crucified, and still we misuse your creation. We are the people who helped make the nails that pierced your body, and still we hurt those around us. We are the people who did nothing to stop your betrayers, and still we are ruled by comfort or cowardice. Forgive us, Lord, forgive us.**

Officiant: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen our bodies, minds and spirits, and keep us close to the heart of God.

Officiant: The light of Christ has come into the world.

***ALL:* The light of Christ has come into the world.**

Officiant: Kindle in our hearts, O God, the flame of love which never ceases, that it may burn in us, giving light to others.

***ALL:* O gracious light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven. O Jesus Christ, most holy & blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

Psalm 119:121-144

- 121 I have done what is just and right; *
do not deliver me to my oppressors.
- 122 Be surety for your servant's good; *
let not the proud oppress me.
- 123 My eyes have failed from watching for your salvation *
and for your righteous promise.
- 124 Deal with your servant according to your loving-kindness *
and teach me your statutes.
- 125 I am your servant; grant me understanding, *
that I may know your decrees.
- 126 It is time for you to act, O Lord, *
for they have broken your law.
- 127 Truly, I love your commandments *
more than gold and precious stones.
- 128 I hold all your commandments to be right for me; *
all paths of falsehood I abhor.
- 129 Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
- 130 When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.
- 131 I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.
- 132 Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.
- 133 Steady my footsteps in your word; *
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
- 134 Rescue me from those who oppress me, *
and I will keep your commandments.
- 135 Let your countenance shine upon your servant *
and teach me your statutes.

- 136 My eyes shed streams of tears, *
because people do not keep your law.
- 137 You are righteous, O Lord, *
and upright are your judgments.
- 138 You have issued your decrees *
with justice and in perfect faithfulness.
- 139 My indignation has consumed me, *
because my enemies forget your words.
- 140 Your word has been tested to the uttermost, *
and your servant holds it dear.
- 141 I am small and of little account, *
yet I do not forget your commandments.
- 142 Your justice is an everlasting justice *
and your law is the truth.
- 143 Trouble and distress have come upon me, *
yet your commandments are my delight.
- 144 The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting; *
grant me understanding, that I may live.

The people sit for the first reading.

Acts 6:1-15

During those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, "We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God." They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, "This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us." And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God!**

The people stand

ALL: **The soles of his feet have reached the earth, the soles of the Son of Glory. The sun on the housetops shines for him; the voice of the winds with the sounds of the streets announce to us that God has opened a door: the door of hope, the door of joy! Alleluia!**

Luke 22:14-23

When the hour of the Passover came, Jesus took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of

God comes.” Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!” Then they began to ask one another, which one of them it could be who would do this.

The Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Officiant As beloved children of God, let us pray in the words our savior taught us:

ALL: Our Father in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
Yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day is said by the Officiant.

Collect

O Lord, we beseech thee, make us to have a perpetual fear and love of thy holy Name, for thou never failest to help and govern those whom thou hast set upon the sure foundation of thy loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The following intercessions are said.

Officiant: Into your hands, O Lord, we place our families and our neighbors, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and all whom we have met today. Enfold them in your will.

***ALL:* Into your hands, O Lord.**

Officiant: Into your hands, O Lord, we place all who are victims of prejudice, oppression, or neglect; the frail and the unwanted. Cherish them in your love.

***ALL:* Into your hands, O Lord.**

Officiant: Into your hands, O Lord, we place all who are restless, sick, or prey to the powers of evil. Keep them in your care.

***ALL:* Into your hands, O Lord.**

Officiant: Circle us, Lord. Keep darkness out. Keep light within.

***ALL:* Keep darkness out. Keep light within.**

Officiant: Keep fear out, keep peace within.

***ALL:* Keep fear out; keep peace within.**

Officiant: Keep hatred out; keep love within.

***ALL:* Keep hatred out; keep love within.**

Officiant: Lighten our darkness, O Lord, we pray; and in your great mercy defend us from all dangers and perils of this night; for the love of your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

***ALL:* Amen.**

All sit

Officiant: Now let us present our gifts and offerings to God.

The gifts are presented at the altar, as all stand.

Officiant: All things come from you, O God.

***ALL:* And of your own have we given you.**

Officiant: The almighty and merciful Three encircle us, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

ALL: The stillness of God be ours this night,
That we may sleep in peace.
The awareness of the angels be ours this night,
That we may be alert to unseen mysteries.
The company of the saints be ours this night,
That we dream of the river of love.
The life of Christ be ours this night,
That we may be truly alive to the morning,
That we may be truly alive!

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Officiant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and for ever.

ALL: AMEN!

