

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.

### 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.

Let us bless the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



COMMEMORATION OF ST. FRANCIS  
OF ASSISI: EVENING PRAYER  
& BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS  
OCTOBER 3, 2021 - 5:30 P.M.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. *Psalm 96:9*

### THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

O God, make speed to save us.  
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

### O Gracious Light

O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and 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.

The Psalter: Psalm 121 *responsively by whole verse (Lector then the Congregation)*

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \* from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord, \* the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved \* and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
4 **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \* shall neither slumber nor sleep;**  
5 The Lord himself watches over you; \* the Lord is your shade at your right hand,  
6 **So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \* nor the moon by night.**  
7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; \* it is he who shall keep you safe.  
8 **The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \* from this time forth for evermore.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## THE LESSONS

### Lesson: Job 39:1-18

Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you observe the calving of the deer? Can you number the months that they fulfil, and do you know the time when they give birth, when they crouch to give birth to their offspring, and are delivered of their young? Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open; they go forth, and do not return to them. 'Who has let the wild ass go free? Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass, to which I have given the steppe for its home, the salt land for its dwelling-place? It scorns the tumult of the city; it does not hear the shouts of the driver. It ranges the mountains as its pasture, and it searches after every green thing. 'Is the wild ox willing to serve you? Will it spend the night at your crib? Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes, or will it harrow the valleys after you? Will you depend on it because its strength is great, and will you hand over your labour to it? Do you have faith in it that it will return, and bring your grain to your threshing-floor? 'The ostrich's wings flap wildly, though its pinions lack plumage. For it leaves its eggs to the earth, and lets them be warmed on the ground, forgetting that a foot may crush them, and that a wild animal may trample them. It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own; though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear; because God has made it forget wisdom, and given it no share in understanding. When it spreads its plumes aloft, it laughs at the horse and its rider.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### A Song of Creation, *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord,  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Let the earth glorify the Lord,  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \* O whales and all that move in the waters. All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \* and all you flocks and herds. O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord;  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord,  
**Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.**

### Collect, *the commemoration of St. Francis*

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant thy people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may, for love of thee, delight in thy whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The General Thanksgiving

**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;**

## The Collect of the Day, *Proper 23*

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A Collect for Sundays

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Prayer for Mission

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Reflection

### The Blessing of the Animals

*The priest goes to each animal, asking the owner its name and blessing it with these or similar words:*

"N. (*name of animal*) may you be blessed in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May you and your family enjoy life together and find joy with God who created you." **Amen.**

## The Song of Mary, *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## Lesson: Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## The Song of Simeon, *Nunc Dimittis*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## 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.

## THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.  
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.

## Suffrages A

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 by your Holy Spirit .**