



... ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ...

Longest Night

DECEMBER 22 AT 6:00 PM



Prelude

The following is sung by the Congregation, all standing

Opening Hymn

Hymn No. 662

Abide With Me

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide:
when other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

The service begins with the following greeting:

Celebrant: Grace and peace be with you, from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening,
the morning and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to
know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by
your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal
light, living and reigning for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-5; 28-31

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God. 4

Psalm 121

- 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.

Reading

Romans 8:14-19,34-35,37-39

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

All stand and remain standing for the Gospel.

The following is sung by the Congregation.

Sequence Hymn

Hymn No. 488

Be Thou My Vision, O Lord of My Heart

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
all else be nought to me, save that thou art-
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father; thine own may I be;
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

High King of heaven, when victory is won,
may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Gospel

John 14:18-20,25-27

Deacon or Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

Deacon or Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily Fr. Bryan Owen

Lighting of the Candles: A Litany of Remembrance

First Candle

Fr. Bryan: We light this candle to remember those persons whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember their names, their faces, their voices. We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us and we hold them before God, giving thanks for their lives in ours.

People: May God's eternal love surround them.

Second Candle

Mtr. Trish: We light this candle to redeem the pain of loss; the loss of relationships, the loss of jobs, the loss of health, the loss of joy and peace, and the loss of dreams. As we gather up the pain of the past, we offer it to you, O God, asking that into our open hands you will place the gift of peace.

People: Refresh us, restore us, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

Third Candle

Fr. Bryan: We light this candle to remember ourselves and whose we are. We pause to remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us, years of sorrow. We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, the pain. We open ourselves to receive the healing and hope which can only be found in the Light of Christ.

People: Let us remember that the Light of Christ defeats darkness.

Fourth Candle

Mtr. Trish We light this candle to remind us of our faith and the gift of hope which God offers to us in His son, Jesus. We remember that God, who abides in us and we in Him, promises us a place and time where pain and sorrow will be no more.

People: Let us remember the One who shows the way to everlasting life.

The Lighting of the Votives

There's a Balm in Gilead
Don Hill, Soloist

As desired, the people come forward to the table of candles, light a votive and return to their seat with their selected votive.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

People The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy

S-130

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with blessed St. Luke and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People

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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving Holy Communion - *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion in The Episcopal Church.*

Communion Hymn

Hymn No. 324

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
in the Body and the Blood
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
“Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

The following is sung by the Congregation, all standing

Closing Hymn

Hymn No. 42

Now The Day Is Over

Now the day is over,
night is drawing nigh,
shadows of the evening
steal across the sky.

Jesus, give the weary
calm and sweet repose;
with thy tenderest blessing
may our eyelids close.

Grant to little children
visions bright of thee;
guard the sailors tossing
on the deep, blue sea.

Comfort every sufferer
watching late in pain;
those who plan some evil
from their sin restrain.

Through the long night watches
may thine angels spread
their white wings above me,
watching round my bed.

Dismissal

A Deacon or Priest says the Dismissal

The People respond: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Please take a votive with a candle home with you,
and light a candle of peace!*



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