

Evening Prayer

April 9, 2025

Wednesday after the Fifth Sunday in Lent

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, Pastor and Theologian, 1945

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

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**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.**

Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People 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.**

O Gracious Light

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the ever-living 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.

Psalm 128

BCP p. 783

Happy are they all who fear the LORD, *
and who follow in his ways!
**You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.**
Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.
**The man who fears the LORD *
shall thus indeed be blessed.**
The LORD bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.
**May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.**

Psalm 129

BCP p. 784

“Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth,” *
let Israel now say;
**“Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth, *
but they have not prevailed against me.”**
The plowmen plowed upon my back *
and made their furrows long.
**The LORD, the Righteous One, *
has cut the cords of the wicked.**
Let them be put to shame and thrown back, *
all those who are enemies of Zion.
**Let them be like grass upon the housetops, *
which withers before it can be plucked;**
Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, *
nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves;

So that those who go by say not so much as, “The LORD prosper you. *

We wish you well in the Name of the LORD.”

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

The First Lesson

Rom. 10:14-21

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.” Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.” Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, “I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me.” But of Israel he says, “All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 14. A Song of Penitence

Prayer of Manasseh 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of all their righteous offspring:

You made the heavens and the earth, *

with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; *

they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *

it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, *

long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; *

you do not punish as we deserve.

In your great goodness, Lord, you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *

that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.

Therefore I make this prayer to you: *

Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.

Do not let me perish in my sin, *

nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.

For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.

For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

The Second Lesson

John 10:1-18

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 17. The Song of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

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.

In a few days it will be Easter. That makes me very happy. But do you think that either of us by ourselves could believe or would want to believe these impossible things that are reported in the gospels, if the Bible did not support us in our belief? Simply the Word, as God's truth, which he vouches for himself. Resurrection – that is not a self-evident idea, an eternal verity. I mean, of course resurrection as the Bible means it – as a rising up from real death (not sleep) to real life, from life without God to new life with Christ in God. God has said (and we know this through the Bible): "Behold I make all things new." He made that come true at Easter. Must not this message appear much more impossible, distant, unreal than the whole story of King David, which, by comparison is quite harmless?

There remains, then, only the decision whether we will trust the Bible or not, whether we will allow ourselves to be supported by it as by no other word, in life and death. And I believe that we can only be happy and at peace when we have made that decision.

From "The Bible Alone: A Letter to Dr. Rudiger Schleicher"
(Bonhoeffer's brother-in-law and good friend)

We share reflections on the day's scripture and readings.

What do you notice?

What is speaking to you?

What difference does it make?

Do you believe the Bible when Jesus says he is your Good Shepherd?

If so, what difference does it make in your response to today's world?

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

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

The Lord's Prayer

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

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

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pastor and Theologian, 1945

Embolden our lives, O Lord, and inspire our faiths, that we, following the example of your servant Dietrich Bonhoeffer, might embrace your call with undivided hearts; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Seasonal Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A 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.**

*We offer intercessions and thanksgivings from our heart
either silently or aloud or in the chat function.*

We pray for healing for those on the parish prayer list, including: Allison, Phoebe Babb, Kristin Baird, Bob, Bruna, Heather Cameron, Cathie Cardelucci, Lydia Cedrone, Mary Collins, Ann Daily, Dave, John DeNatale, Diego, Peggy Downs, Jonathan English, Steve Eramo, David Fieldhouse, Peter Foley, Claudette Forss, Connor Gallagher, Kristen Goddard, Louise Haldeman, Lester Hartman, Karen Dodd Howard, Devon Hoyt, Jeffrey, Pete Jeffrey, Jack Jephson, Jerry, Jordan, Debra Katt-Lloyd, John & Theresa Kelly, Ken Leach, Fred MacArthur, Kevin MacKenzie, Keith & Joanne Manville, Mark Martino, Suzanne McAllister, Don McCarter, Melissa, Becky Miller, Marguerite Mullaney, Jim & Sara Murphy, T.A.N, Steve Newman, Jim O'Reilly, Emma Parese, Pat & Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Tony R., Rebecca, Kirk Ronaldson, Cheryl Santarelli, Trudy, Bill & Jan Walsh, Kelly Wood.

I ask your prayers for the completed lives of Kathleen Thompson and Rowena Vater. May Kathleen, Rowena and the souls of all the dearly departed, rest in peace.

A General Thanksgiving (1979 Version)

BCP, p. 836

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP p. 102

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.

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.**

Ephesians 3:20,21