

Evening Prayer

May 20, 2026

Wednesday after the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Francis Perkins-Public Servant, Prophetic Witness; 1965

http://satucket.com/lectionary/frances_perkins.htm

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

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.**

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

Invitatory and Psalter

BCP p. 117

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.
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.

Psalm 119: Ayin

BCP p. 773

I have done what is just and right; *
do not deliver me to my oppressors.

Be surety for your servant's good; *
let not the proud oppress me.

My eyes have failed from watching for your salvation *
and for your righteous promise.

Deal with your servant according to your loving-kindness *
and teach me your statutes.

I am your servant; grant me understanding, *
that I may know your decrees.

It is time for you to act, O LORD, *
for they have broken your law.

Truly, I love your commandments *
more than gold and precious stones.

I hold all your commandments to be right for me; *
all paths of falsehood I abhor.

Psalm 119: Pe

BCP p. 774

Your decrees are wonderful; *
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

When your word goes forth it gives light; *
it gives understanding to the simple.

I open my mouth and pant; *
I long for your commandments.

Turn to me in mercy, *
as you always do to those who love your Name.

Steady my footsteps in your word; *

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

Rescue me from those who oppress me, *

and I will keep your commandments.

Let your countenance shine upon your servant *

and teach me your statutes.

My eyes shed streams of tears, *

because people do not keep your law.

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

Isa. 4:2-6

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed over all the glory there will be a canopy. It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

P. A Song of the Spirit

Revelation 22:12-17

“Behold, I am coming soon,” says the Lord, “and bringing my reward with me, *to give to everyone according to their deeds.

**“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, *
the beginning and the end.”**

Blessed are those who do God’s commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, * and may enter the city through the gates.

**“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, *
with this testimony for all the churches.**

“I am the root and the offspring of David, *
I am the bright morning star.”

“Come!” say the Spirit and the Bride; *

“Come!” let each hearer reply!

Come forward, you who are thirsty, *
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

The Second Lesson

Eph. 4:1-16

A Reading from the Letter to the Ephesians.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Frances Perkins (1880-1965)

With roots in Maine, Frances was born in Boston -1880, lived in Worcester, attended Mt. Holyoke-died 1965. Her family was strict, conservative, Republican, and her world outside her home was at Congregational Church. She first experienced poverty when she entered school, and when she asked her parents why nice people could be poor, they gave her the accepted answers: that poverty was the result of alcohol or laziness.

Her initial work after college was to teach but after significant time volunteering in shelter homes, and later after pursuing sociology and social work education, her passion and then her vocation lay in her work to improve the conditions for the working poor and members of society. She became involved in multiple organizations including protection for fire and general worker safety in factories, sanitation regulations for bakeries, limitation of working hours for women and children, and protections for immigrant refugees from deportations back to Nazi Germany. She converted to the Episcopal Church for their social justice work, and in her writings spoke often about her the faith and divine inspiration she received to pursue her work.

Through her many associations, she became President Franklin D Roosevelt's Secretary of Labor and was the prime architect of the New Deal and many government programs we have today.

'In February, 1933, when President-elect Roosevelt asked Frances Perkins to serve in his cabinet as Secretary of Labor, she outlined for him a set of policy priorities she would pursue: a 40-hour work week; a minimum wage; unemployment compensation; worker's compensation; abolition of child labor; direct federal aid to the states for unemployment relief; Social Security; a revitalized federal employment service; and universal health insurance. She made it clear to Roosevelt that his agreement with these priorities was a condition of her joining his cabinet. Roosevelt said he endorsed them all, and Frances Perkins became the first woman in the nation to serve in a Presidential cabinet (Source--Frances Perkins Center, Maine)'

'Frances Perkins was a religious person in the most promising sense of that word. She welcomed divine revelation through creation and spirituality, to be sure, but also through the Church—a community valuing scripture, tradition, and reason and persisting through the ages. She experienced the Almighty as a God of grace and believed this grace flowed through all creation. To live in a loving relationship with God was to aid the flow of grace to all, especially to those whose life circumstances might have deprived or endangered them in some way. She honored this calling by promoting, and often delivering, justice and material blessing for everyone, especially the American public. (Source--Frances Perkins Center, Maine)'

Quotes:

"I had to do something about unnecessary hazards to life, unnecessary poverty. It was sort of up to me."

In her advocacy for the Immigrants and working poor

"It seemed perfectly clear. Our Lord had directed all who were following in his path to visit the widows the orphans, the fatherless, the prisoners and so on. Definitely the circumstances of the life of people of my generation was my business, and I ought to do something about it"

"I came to work for God, FDR and the millions of forgotten, plain, common working men."

Upon her completion of her time as Secretary of Labor:

"There is always a large horizon.... There is much to be done I am not going to be doing it! It is up to you to contribute some small part to a program of human betterment for all time."

Reflections:

We share reflections on the day's scripture readings:

- *What do you notice?*
- *What is speaking to you?*
- *What difference does it make?*
- *Can Frances Perkins' life inspire our lives in any way?*

The Apostles' Creed

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**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

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 with your Holy Spirit.**

The Collect of the Day

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Frances Perkins:

Loving God, we bless your Name for Frances Perkins who in faithfulness to her baptism envisioned a society in which all may live in health and decency: Help us, following her example and in union with her prayers, to contend tirelessly for justice and for the protection of all, that we may be faithful followers of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Mission

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.

We pray for healing for those on the parish prayer list, including: John Aalto, Donna Boudreau, Peter Brown, Lydia Cedrone, Jacob DeCarlen-Bumiller, John and Richard DeNatale, Peggy Downs, David Fieldhouse, Connor Gallagher, Mary Gasson, Peggy Givans, Kristen Goddard, Michelle Hager, Louise Haldeman, Heidi, Karen Dodd Howard, CJ, Jack Jephson, Ted Jobe, Ginny Johnson, Tim Kelsey, Kevin, Ken Leach, Kevin MacKenzie, Diane Manning, Keith Manville, Mark Martino, Don McCarter, Sara Murphy, Neil, Gayle Gammon Nelson, Steve Newman, Judith Oder, Jim O'Reilly, Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Dustin Pollard, JP Quinn, Tim, Rebecca, Trudy, Amy Walsh, Bill & Jan, Vicky Wegweiser, Kelly, and Alan Wright.

I ask your prayers for the completed life of Tony R., dear friend of Amy Walsh whom we have been praying for. May Tony and the souls of all the dearly departed, rest in peace.

The General Thanksgiving

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**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;
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

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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. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*