

Evening Prayer

September 2, 2026

Wednesday after the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prudence Crandall -Teacher and prophetic witness 1890

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 us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **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 119: Daleth

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My soul cleaves to the dust; *
give me life according to your word.
I have confessed my ways, and you answered me; *
instruct me in your statutes.
Make me understand the way of your commandments, *
that I may meditate on your marvelous works.
My soul melts away for sorrow; *
strengthen me according to your word.
Take from me the way of lying; *
let me find grace through your law.
I have chosen the way of faithfulness; *
I have set your judgments before me.
I hold fast to your decrees; *
O LORD, let me not be put to shame.
I will run the way of your commandments, *
for you have set my heart at liberty.

Psalm 119: He

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Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.

Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

Psalm 119: Waw

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Let your loving-kindness come to me, O LORD, *
and your salvation, according to your promise.

**Then shall I have a word for those who taunt me, *
because I trust in your words.**

Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth, *
for my hope is in your judgments.

**I shall continue to keep your law; *
I shall keep it for ever and ever.**

I will walk at liberty, *
because I study your commandments.

**I will tell of your decrees before kings *
and will not be ashamed.**

I delight in your commandments, *
which I have always loved.

**I will lift up my hands to your commandments, *
and I will meditate on your statutes.**

**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

Acts 12:18-25

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. When Herod had searched for him and could not find him,

he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

Now Herod was angry with the people of Tyre and Sidon. So they came to him in a body; and after winning over Blastus, the king's chamberlain, they asked for a reconciliation, because their country depended on the king's country for food. On an appointed day Herod put on his royal robes, took his seat on the platform, and delivered a public address to them. The people kept shouting, "The voice of a god, and not of a mortal!" And immediately, because he had not given the glory to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died. But the word of God continued to advance and gain adherents. Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle Q. A Song of Christ's Goodness

Anselm of Canterbury

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; *
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, *
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, *
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; *
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; *
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, *
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; *
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, *
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

The Second Lesson

John 8:47-59

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God." The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a

demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge.

Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death.” The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets; yet you say, ‘Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.’ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?” Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, ‘He is our God,’ though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad.” Then the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

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.

Reflections: Prudence Crandall

Educated in arithmetic, science, and Latin at the New England Friends Boarding School, in a tradition that supported girls' education, and driven by her passion for teaching, Prudence Crandall opened a school for girls from wealthy families in Connecticut in 1831. When she accepted a black girl into the school, outrage by white parents and the community ensued with repeated attempts to close the school. Undeterred, Crandall opened a school for African American girls. With help from the editor of the nation's antislavery newspaper, awareness of her cause spread across the nation, and black students nationwide were accepted by the school. Riots ensued; Crandall was arrested as the legislature passed laws banning students outside of Connecticut from attending. Convicted and later released, the school was closed for safety reasons. Crandall later opened a school in Illinois and worked for Women's Suffrage and the Temperance Movement. In 1886, prompted by repentant Canterbury citizens and Hartford resident author Mark Twain, the Connecticut legislature awarded Crandall a small pension. Her Canterbury school now houses the Prudence Crandall Museum, and she was named Connecticut's state heroine.

Quotes:

“Shall I be inactive and permit prejudice, the mother of abominations, to remain undisturbed? Or shall I venture to enlist in the ranks of those who with the Sword of Truth dare hold combat with prevailing iniquity?” (Public Letter, May 1833)

“Once I thought forgiveness was great, now I see repentance to be even greater for it is life-giving. These United States are strong because they have the capacity to see and correct mistakes, to change and grow. (Elizabeth Yates, Prudence Crandall Woman of Courage)

Reflections:

We share reflections on the day's scripture and commemoration:

- *What do you notice?*
- *What is speaking to you?*
- *What difference does it make?*
- *Prudence Crandall's passion drove her to create change in a world that would not accept it. What can her persistence in spite of her 'failures' help us to make a difference in 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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Commemoration: Prudence Crandall

God, the wellspring of justice and strength: We thank you for raising up in Prudence Crandall a belief in education and a resolute will to teach girls of every color and race, that, alongside her, they might take their place in working for the nurture and well-being of all society, undaunted by prejudice or adversity. Grant that we, following her example, may participate in the work of building up the human family in Christ, your word and Wisdom; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God now and for 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 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: Darryl Abbey, Andrew, Donna Boudreau, Debbie and Evelyn Bourne, Peter Brown, Lydia Cedrone, Jacob DeCarlen-Bumiller, John DeNatale, Donna, Peggy Downs, Erica, Kristen Goddard, Michelle Hager, CJ, Ginny Johnson, Jonathan, Ken Leach, Linda, Kevin MacKenzie, Mark Martino, Sara Murphy, Muriel Peters, Mo Pollman, Rebecca, Carolyn and Jeff Robinson, Keith Santarelli, Kristin Schomer, Trudy, CV, Amy Walsh, Charlie Wisner, Kelly Wood, and Alan Wright.

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.

Thanks be to God.

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*