

Evening Prayer

February 11, 2026

Consecration of Barbara C. Harris

Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name. *Amos 5:8*

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

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 81

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Sing with joy to God our strength *
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

Raise a song and sound the timbrel, *
the merry harp, and the lyre.

Blow the ram's-horn at the new moon, *
and at the full moon, the day of our feast.

For this is a statute for Israel, *
a law of the God of Jacob.

He laid it as a solemn charge upon Joseph, *
when he came out of the land of Egypt

I heard an unfamiliar voice saying, *
"I eased his shoulder from the burden; his hands were set free from
bearing the load."

You called on me in trouble, and I saved you; *
I answered you from the secret place of thunder and tested you at the waters of Meribah.

Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: *
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!

There shall be no strange god among you; *
you shall not worship a foreign god.

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and
said, *
"Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it."

And yet my people did not hear my voice, *
and Israel would not obey me.

**So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts, *
to follow their own devices.**

Oh, that my people would listen to me! *
that Israel would walk in my ways!

**I should soon subdue their enemies *
and turn my hand against their foes.**

Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, *
and their punishment would last for ever.

**But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat *
and satisfy him with honey from the rock.**

**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

Isaiah 58: 6-12

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator* shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,

whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15. The Song of Mary

Luke 1:46-55

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

The Second Lesson

John 8:12-20

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

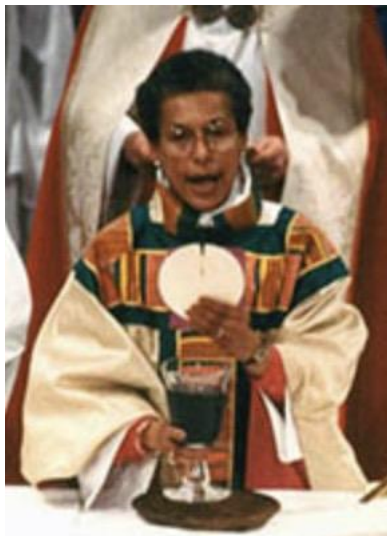
Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 18. A Song to the Lamb

Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13

Splendor and honor and royal power *
are yours by right, O God Most High
For you created everything that is, *
and by your will they were created and have their being;
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, *
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,
From every family, language, people, and nation, *
a royal priesthood to serve our God.
And so, to the One who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and 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.



Bishop Barbara C. Harris

Barbara C. Harris was elected bishop suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, on September 24, 1988, at a special convention of diocesan delegates. Her election was controversial, in part because she was divorced and had not attended seminary, but mainly because she was the first woman to be elected to the position of bishop not only in the Episcopal Church, but in all of the Anglican Communion. Although there were detractors, she had many supporters and her election was successful. Harris was consecrated on February 11, 1989. Eight thousand people attended the service, with sixty bishops participating in the laying on of hands. There were 1,200 dignitaries and clergy in the opening procession. The service was televised live and lasted three hours.

Speaking of her work as bishop, Harris said, "I certainly don't want to be one of the boys. I want to offer my peculiar gifts as a black woman ... a sensitivity and an awareness that comes out of more than a passing acquaintance with oppression."

One or two other incidents stand out in my mind. As people cursed and made obscene gestures, many of the marchers waved and blew kisses to the bystanders, some of whom turned away in utter disbelief. As the speeches were being made from the steps of the Alabama state capitol building, the day grew warm. Someone started passing a huge mason jar of ice water through the crowd near me. It had been provided by the good women of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church where Dr. King was pastor. The water passed from black hands to white, from Christian lips to Jewish, and someone whispered, "We are having Holy Communion right here in the middle of the street."

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

- *What do you notice?*
- *What is speaking to you?*
- *What difference does it make?*
- *What aspects of Bishop Harris's legacy feel most urgent for the Church right now?*
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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 B

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before
the great judgment seat of Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your
saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord

The Collect of the Day

Set us free, O God, from the bondage of our sins, and give us the liberty of that
abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus

Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Consecration of Barbara Clementine Harris

God of the prophets, we give you thanks for calling Barbara Clementine Harris to the office of bishop. Open our eyes to behold the wondrous works you have prepared for your church in calling women to share in the ministry of the episcopate. May we, inspired by their example as faithful shepherds, wise teachers, courageous prophets, and guardians of the faith, proclaim the Good News and carry out the works of Jesus Christ in the world; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns 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.**

Please add your own prayers or thanksgivings aloud or in the chat

We pray for healing for those on the parish prayer list, including: Geoff Blackett, Donna Boudreau, Debbie Bourne, Evelyn Bourne, Peter Brown, Lydia Cedrone, Jacob DeCarlen-Bumiller, John and Richard DeNatale, Peggy Downs, Matthew Dyer, David Fieldhouse, Connor Gallagher, Mary Gasson, Kristen Goddard, Louise Haldeman, Heidi, Karen Dodd Howard, JD, CJ, Jack Jephson, Ted Jobe, Ginny Johnson, Tim Kelsey, Larry, Ken Leach, Carol Lynch, Kevin MacKenzie, Keith Manville, Mark Martino, Don McCarter, Sara Murphy, Neil, Steve Newman, Judith Oder, Jim O'Reilly, Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Dustin Pollard, Mo Pollman, Susan Quinn, Rebecca, Linda Russo, Timothy Springer, Trudy, Vanessa, Amy Walsh, Bill & Jan, Kelly, 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