



ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA

Wednesday Devotional Time

May 26, 2021 - 10:00 a.m.

Officiant: Father Tony Holder, Rector

Mission Statement:

The Community of All Saints' accepts the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship of God, service to His people and stewardship of His gifts.

*The people are invited to read the parts in **bold**.*

Prelude Music

"Trust and Obey"

Fountainview Academy

Opening Sentence

The Officiant begins with the following words:

"Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling." (Psalm 43.3)

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Officiant: Grant, O Lord, that the course of this world may be peaceably governed by your providence; and that your Church may joyfully serve you in confidence and serenity; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: **Amen.**

Psalm 119:33-40

(Page 766 of the Book of Common Prayer or as printed in the bulletin. We will read the psalm alternatively by half verse.)

- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, * **and I shall keep it to the end.**
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; * **I shall keep it with all my heart.**
35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, * **for that is my desire.**
36 Incline my heart to your decrees * **and not to unjust gain.**
37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; * **give me life in your ways.**
38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, * **which you make to those who fear you.**
39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, * **because your judgments are good.**
40 Behold, I long for your commandments; * **in your righteousness preserve my life.**

Scriptural Reading: Luke 15. 1-2, 11-32

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

The Rector

Musical Selection: **“Nearer my God to thee”**

Worldwide Virtual Choir and Orchestra

Confession and Absolution

Officiant: Let us, in humility, confess our sins to God.

Silence

Officiant: When faith is tested to the limit and we stumble.

People: **Forgive us.**

Officiant: When feet stray from the path and we wander.

People: **Forgive us.**

Officiant: When our neighbor is in need and we pass by.

People: **Forgive us.**

Officiant: When the voices of this world drown out your whisper.

People: Forgive us.

Officiant: When love draws us to your feet in repentance.

People: Forgive us.

The Officiant says the following Absolution.

God, the Father of mercies, has reconciled the world to himself through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ, not holding our sins against us, but sending his Holy Spirit to shed abroad his love among us. By the ministry of reconciliation entrusted by Christ to his Church, receive his pardon and peace to stand before him in his strength alone this day and for evermore.

People: Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

The musical selection - "Veni Sancte Spiritus" (Come, Holy Spirit) - Taizé - is played during the prayers.

Officiant: Almighty and everlasting God, creator of time and space of season, of birth and evolution of both living creatures and galaxies alike, hear us as we humbly come before you. We have heard about how you, Father, came to live among us. As we try to understand what this means in our lives we pray that you will guide us in our requests for others in our prayers of intercession.
Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: Lord, we thank you that you promised the possibility of making a fresh start at any time. Help those who have recently made important decisions in their lives to see them through. Life is full of pressures which often pull and push us in directions we would, and should, not normally take. Give us strength of purpose and faith in you to take decisions seriously, to understand the consequences for others, as well as ourselves, and, always, to seek your guidance through prayer.
Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: We are reminded of the world's deafness to the message of peace. We imagine how un-silent is life in today's Bethlehem and across Israel and Palestine. We pray for all caught up in conflict or its preparations. We think of our military men and women who are away from home in places where peace is not present. Father, give strength and courage to all peacemakers that they will not be dissuaded from the difficult decisions needed to bring about an end to open conflict or acts of terrorism. We also pray for countries seeking responsible government and an end to oppression.
Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: We pray for this, our own, country with its cultural and ethnic diversity, for Joseph, our President, for the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, for the Judiciary, that they will govern wisely and with due regard for the needs of all people. We pray for all our people facing life without some of the basics that we take so much for granted. We think of the homeless, the unemployed, the asylum seeker, the addict, the ex-prisoner. Lord Jesus who became a refugee from the oppression of Herod be with all those who find themselves marginalized in our society. Support all who work through state and voluntary agencies to relieve their hardship and restore dignity.
Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.

Officiant: We pray for all families represented here today. Each one is made up differently and faces the normal ups and downs of family life in different ways. We remember that Jesus was born, nurtured and grew up in a family which would have known all the emotions that we know in

ours. We pray that each family finds a place for that selfless love, revealed to us through the life, teachings and example of our Lord.

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: We pray for the world-wide church and pray especially for all peoples facing religious intolerance often by those who distort the teachings of their own faith for political ends. We think now of our Church here at All Saints'. We pray for our clergy and leaders, guide and support them and all who contribute to the Church's vision of service and witness.

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: We pray for the sick, both at home and in hospital, or hospice. We think of the elderly, the housebound, those in care homes, and the millions who have been ill with coronavirus. And we pray for all who care to their needs, both professionally and in the family. Lord Jesus who responded to the needs of all those who had faith; comfort and sustain those who are in need of your grace at this time. As we share together in prayer, let us now bring before you those who have asked us to pray for them (*Name those who are ill*).

Lord have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ have mercy upon us. We put our trust in you, the light that shines in the darkness.**

Officiant: Especially do we pray for those who mourn the loss of loved ones, whether recently or some time ago. Let the knowledge of your resurrection in glory be comfort to all those who mourn. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, a light which no darkness can quench. We remember before God those who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Merciful Father accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Adapted from "thisischurch.com"

The Lord's Prayer

Violin and Piano Instrumental

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Officiant may say

May Almighty God, who enlightened the minds of the disciples by pouring out upon them the Holy Spirit, make you rich with his blessing, that you may abound more and more in that Spirit for ever...and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Musical Selection:

"How can I keep from singing"

NYC Virtual Choir and Orchestra