

## Morning Prayer

Thursday, March 23



### Opening Sentence

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. *Habakkuk 2:20*

### Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.*

### The Invitatory and Psalter

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,

and will be forever. *Amen.*

### Antiphon

The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the Earth:

Come let us adore him.

### Venite *Psalms 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*

and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, \*

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!  
The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the Earth:  
Come let us adore him.

**Psalm 69:**1-23; 31-38 *Salvum me fac*

<sup>1</sup>Save me, O God, \*  
for the waters have risen up to my neck.  
<sup>2</sup>I am sinking in deep mire, \*  
and there is no firm ground for my feet.  
<sup>3</sup>I have come into deep waters, \*  
and the torrent washes over me.  
<sup>4</sup>I have grown weary with my crying;  
my throat is inflamed; \*  
my eyes have failed from looking for my God.  
<sup>5</sup>Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs  
of my head;  
my lying foes who would destroy me are mighty. \*  
Must I then give back what I never stole?  
<sup>6</sup>O God, you know my foolishness, \*  
and my faults are not hidden from you.  
<sup>7</sup>Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,  
Lord GOD of hosts; \*  
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,  
O God of Israel.  
<sup>8</sup>Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, \*  
and shame has covered my face.  
<sup>9</sup>I have become a stranger to my own kindred, \*  
an alien to my mother's children.  
<sup>10</sup>Zeal for your house has eaten me up; \*  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.  
<sup>11</sup>I humbled myself with fasting, \*  
but that was turned to my reproach.  
<sup>12</sup>I put on sack-cloth also, \*  
and became a byword among them.  
<sup>13</sup>Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, \*  
and the drunkards make songs about me.  
<sup>14</sup>But as for me, this is my prayer to you, \*  
at the time you have set, O Lord:  
<sup>15</sup>"In your great mercy, O God, \*  
answer me with your unfailing help.  
<sup>16</sup>Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; \*  
let me be rescued from those who hate me  
and out of the deep waters.  
<sup>17</sup>Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,  
neither let the deep swallow me up; \*  
do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.  
<sup>18</sup>Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; \*  
in your great compassion, turn to me."  
<sup>19</sup>"Hide not your face from your servant; \*  
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

<sup>20</sup>Draw near to me and redeem me; \*  
because of my enemies deliver me.  
<sup>21</sup>You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; \*  
my adversaries are all in your sight."  
<sup>22</sup>Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed; \*  
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,  
for comforters, but I could find no one.  
<sup>23</sup>They gave me gall to eat, \*  
and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

<sup>31</sup>As for me, I am afflicted and in pain; \*  
your help, O God, will lift me up on high.  
<sup>32</sup>I will praise the Name of God in song; \*  
I will proclaim his greatness with thanksgiving.  
<sup>33</sup>This will please the Lord more than an offering of oxen, \*  
more than bullocks with horns and hoofs.  
<sup>34</sup>The afflicted shall see and be glad; \*  
you who seek God, your heart shall live.  
<sup>35</sup>For the Lord listens to the needy, \*  
and his prisoners he does not despise.  
<sup>36</sup>Let the heavens and the earth praise him, \*  
the seas and all that moves in them;  
<sup>37</sup>For God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; \*  
they shall live there and have it in possession.  
<sup>38</sup>The children of his servants will inherit it, \*  
and those who love his Name will dwell therein.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;  
world without end. Amen. *Amen.*

## **The First Lesson**

*A reading from Jeremiah 22:13-23*

<sup>13</sup>Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing and does not give them their wages; <sup>14</sup>who says, "I will build myself a spacious house with large upper rooms," and who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar, and painting it with vermilion. <sup>15</sup>Are you a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. <sup>16</sup>He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? says the Lord. <sup>17</sup>But your eyes and heart are only on your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence. <sup>18</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord concerning King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah: They shall not lament for him, saying, "Alas, my brother!" or "Alas, sister!" They shall not lament for him, saying, "Alas, lord!" or "Alas, his majesty!" <sup>19</sup>With the burial of a donkey he shall be buried— dragged off and thrown out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.  
<sup>20</sup>Go up to Lebanon, and cry out, and lift up your voice in Bashan; cry out from Abarim, for all your lovers are crushed. <sup>21</sup>I spoke to you in your prosperity, but you said, "I will not listen." This has been your way from your youth, for you have not obeyed my voice. <sup>22</sup>The wind shall shepherd all your shepherds, and your lovers shall go into captivity; then you will be ashamed and dismayed because of all your wickedness. <sup>23</sup>O inhabitant of Lebanon, nested among the cedars, how you will groan when pangs come upon you, pain as of a woman in labor!

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 8** The Song of Moses *Cantemus Domino*

*Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*

the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*

the Lord has become my Savior.

This is my God and I will praise him, \*

the God of my people and I will exalt him.

The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*

Yahweh is his Name.

The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*

the finest of those who bear armor have been

drowned in the Red Sea.

The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*

they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*

your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.

Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*

who is like you, glorious in holiness,

awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?

You stretched forth your right hand; \*

the earth swallowed them up.

With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*

with your might you brought them in safety to

your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them \*

on the mount of your possession,

The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*

the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.

The Lord shall reign \*

forever and forever.

**The Second Lesson**

*A reading from Romans 8:12-27*

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup>for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

<sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been

groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 19** The Song of the Redeemed *Magna et mirabilia*

*Revelation 15:3-4*

O ruler of the universe, Lord God,  
great deeds are they that you have done, \*  
surpassing human understanding.

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, \*

O King of all the ages.

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,  
and sing the praises of your Name? \*  
for you only are the holy One.

All nations will draw near and fall down before you, \*  
because your just and holy works have been revealed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

### **The Gospel**

*The Gospel according to John 6:41-51*

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." <sup>42</sup>They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

### **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**

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*  
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,  
forever and ever. *Amen.*

### **The Suffrages**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
Govern and uphold them, now and always.  
Day by day we bless you;  
We praise your Name forever.  
Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
For we put our trust in you.  
In you, Lord, is our hope;  
And we shall never hope in vain.

**Collect of the Day**

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

**A Collect for Mission**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**Collect of Commemoration**

Almighty God, who raised up your servant Gregory to be a light in the world, and to preach the Gospel to the people of Armenia: Illuminate our hearts, that we also in our own generation may show forth your praise, who called us out of darkness and into your marvelous light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

**Trinity Cycle of Prayer**

*Corrie Dangler*

Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

**A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

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.*

**Benediction**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*

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## **The Commemoration**

The ancient kingdom of Armenia was the first country to become Christian, and it recognizes Gregory as its apostle.

Armenia was a buffer state between the powerful empires of Rome and Parthia (Persia), and both of them sought to control it.

Gregory was born about 257. When he was still an infant, his father assassinated the King of Parthia, and friends of the family carried Gregory away for protection to Caesarea in Cappadocia, where he was reared as a Christian.

About 280 he returned to Armenia, where he was at first treated severely, but eventually by his preaching and example brought both King Tiridates and a majority of his people to the Christian faith.

About 300, Gregory was consecrated the first bishop of Armenia. He died about 332.

Armenian Christians to this day remember him with honor and gratitude.

Armenians were the first people to adopt Christianity as the state religion.

Tertullian and Eusebius of Caesaria suggest that Christianity was practiced in Armenia as early as the 2nd century. Eusebius also mentions an exchange of letters between Jesus Christ and the Armenian king of Edessa Abkar V (the Black) (9-46 A.D).

Legend claims for Armenian the graves of four apostles: Bartholomew, Simon, Thaddaeus, and Jude.

It was sometime between 288 and 301 that St. Gregory the Illuminator (Grigor Loussavorich : ca. 240-332), who had been subjected to cruel tortures and incarcerated in a deep well (Khor Virab) for 13 years for refusing to participate in pagan rites, converted King Tiridates (238-314).

In 302, St. Gregory was ordained bishop, and in 303 he founded the Cathedral of Etchmiadzin, near Mount Ararat, which, to this day, is the seat of the supreme patriarch or catholicos, the head of the Armenian Church.

St. Gregory went on to evangelize several other Caucasian nations and baptized the kings of Iberia (Georgia), Lazes and Albania.

Sometime before his death he retired to a solitary life in the wilderness.

The patron saint of Armenia, he is now venerated in both the Eastern and Latin Church.  
from Armenia Online