

Morning Prayer

Friday, November 21



Opening Statement

Leader

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. *John 4:23*

Confession of Sin

Leader

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Everyone together, all kneeling:

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.

Leader

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.*

Versicle and Response

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

The Antiphon

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:
Come let us adore him.

Jubilate

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: the Lord himself is God;
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting;
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.
The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:
Come let us adore him.

Psalm 102 *Domine, exaudi*

¹Lord, hear my prayer, and let my cry come before you; *
hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.
²Incline your ear to me; *
when I call, make haste to answer me,
³For my days drift away like smoke, *
and my bones are hot as burning coals.
⁴My heart is smitten like grass and withered, *
so that I forget to eat my bread.
⁵Because of the voice of my groaning *
I am but skin and bones.
⁶I have become like a vulture in the wilderness, *
like an owl among the ruins.
⁷I lie awake and groan; *
I am like a sparrow, lonely on a house-top.
⁸My enemies revile me all day long, *
and those who scoff at me have taken an oath against me.
⁹For I have eaten ashes for bread *
and mingled my drink with weeping.
¹⁰Because of your indignation and wrath *
you have lifted me up and thrown me away.
¹¹My days pass away like a shadow, *
and I wither like the grass.
¹²But you, O Lord, endure for ever, *
and your Name from age to age.
¹³You will arise and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to have mercy upon her; *
indeed, the appointed time has come.
¹⁴For your servants love her very rubble, *
and are moved to pity even for her dust.
¹⁵The nations shall fear your Name, O Lord, *
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
¹⁶For the Lord will build up Zion, *
and his glory will appear.
¹⁷He will look with favor on the prayer of the homeless; *
he will not despise their plea.
¹⁸Let this be written for a future generation, *
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.
¹⁹For the Lord looked down from his holy place on high; *
from the heavens he beheld the earth;
²⁰That he might hear the groan of the captive *

and set free those condemned to die;
²¹That they may declare in Zion the Name of the Lord, *
and his praise in Jerusalem;
²²When the peoples are gathered together, *
and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.
²³He has brought down my strength before my time; *
he has shortened the number of my days;
²⁴And I said, "O my God,
do not take me away in the midst of my days; *
your years endure throughout all generations.
²⁵In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations
of the earth, *
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
²⁶They shall perish, but you will endure;
they all shall wear out like a garment; *
as clothing you will change them,
and they shall be changed;
²⁷But you are always the same, *
and your years will never end.
²⁸The children of your servants shall continue, *
and their offspring shall stand fast in your sight."

Gloria Patri

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 Old Testament Lesson

Reader

A reading from the First Book of Maccabees 4:36-59

³⁶Then Judas and his brothers said, See, our enemies are crushed; let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it. ³⁷So all the army assembled and went up to Mount Zion. ³⁸There they saw the sanctuary desolate, the altar profaned, and the gates burned. In the courts they saw bushes sprung up as in a thicket, or as on one of the mountains. They saw also the chambers of the priests in ruins. ³⁹Then they tore their clothes and mourned with great lamentation; they sprinkled themselves with ashes⁴⁰and fell face down on the ground. And when the signal was given with the trumpets, they cried out to Heaven.
⁴¹Then Judas detailed men to fight against those in the citadel until he had cleansed the sanctuary. ⁴²He chose blameless priests devoted to the law,⁴³and they cleansed the sanctuary and removed the defiled stones to an unclean place. ⁴⁴They deliberated what to do about the altar of burnt offering, which had been profaned. ⁴⁵And they thought it best to tear it down, so that it would not be a lasting shame to them that the Gentiles had defiled it. So they tore down the altar,⁴⁶and stored the stones in a convenient place on the temple hill until a prophet should come to tell what to do with them. ⁴⁷Then they took unhewn stones, as the law directs, and built a new altar like the former one. ⁴⁸They also rebuilt the sanctuary and the interior of the temple, and consecrated the courts. ⁴⁹They made new holy vessels, and brought the lampstand, the altar of incense, and the table into the temple. ⁵⁰Then they offered incense on the altar and

lit the lamps on the lampstand, and these gave light in the temple.⁵¹ They placed the bread on the table and hung up the curtains. Thus they finished all the work they had undertaken.⁵² Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred forty-eighth year,⁵³ they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering that they had built.⁵⁴ At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals.⁵⁵ All the people fell on their faces and worshiped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them.⁵⁶ So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and joyfully offered burnt offerings; they offered a sacrifice of well-being and a thanksgiving offering.⁵⁷ They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and fitted them with doors.⁵⁸ There was very great joy among the people, and the disgrace brought by the Gentiles was removed.⁵⁹ Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of dedication of the altar should be observed with joy and gladness for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev.

The Word of the Lord.

Everyone

Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept after the Reading.

Canticle 10 The Second Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 55:6-11

Quaerite Dominum

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord,
and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.
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 New Testament Lesson

Reader

A reading from the Revelation to John 22:6-13

⁶And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." ⁷"See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." ⁸I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me; ⁹but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!" ¹⁰And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. ¹¹Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." ¹²"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The Word of the Lord.

Everyone

Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept after the Reading.

Canticle 18 A Song to the Lamb

Dignus es

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

Splendor and honor and kingly power *
are yours by right, O Lord our God,
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 kingdom of priests to serve our God.
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, *
and to Christ the Lamb,
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, *
for ever and for evermore.

The Gospel

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew 18:10-20

¹⁰"Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. ¹²What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in

heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Word of the Lord.

Everyone

Thanks be to God.

Silence may be kept after the Reading.

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 Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. *Amen.*

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 for ever.

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.

A Collect for Fridays

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. *Amen.*

Collect of Commemoration

Almighty God, who gave to your servants Mechthilde and Gertrude special gifts of grace to understand and teach the truth in Christ Jesus: Grant that by their teachings we may know you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Trinity Cycle of Prayer

Janice Thomas

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

Leader

Let us bless the Lord.

Everyone

Thanks be to God.

Leader

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*

The Commemoration

Mechtilde of Hackeborn (1240/1241 19 November 1298) was a Saxon (from what is now Germany) Benedictine nun in the monastery of Helfta.

Born Matilda von Hackeborn-Wippa, in 1240 or 1241, she belonged to one of the noblest and most powerful Thuringian families; her sister was the illustrious Abbess Gertrude of Hackeborn (not to be confused with Gertrude the Great, below).

She was famous for her musical talents and was called the Nightingale of Helfta. Gifted with a beautiful voice, Mechtilde also possessed a special talent for rendering the solemn and sacred music over which she presided as *domina cantrix*.

Mechtilde is best known for her revelations. The Lord would say to Mechtilde: Everything you have and by which you can please me you have from me and through me.

In one extraordinary vision she perceived that "the smallest details of creation are reflected in the Holy Trinity by means of the humanity of Christ, because it is from the same earth that produced them that Christ drew his humanity."

At the age of 50, Mechtilde went through a grave spiritual crisis, as well as physical suffering. Much troubled, Mechtilde, first had recourse to prayer. She had a vision of Christ holding in His hand the book of her revelations, and saying: "All this has been committed to writing by my will and inspiration; and, therefore you have no cause to be troubled about it." He also told her that He wished this book to be called *The Book of Special Grace*, because it would prove such to many.

Mechtilde died in the Monastery of Helfta, on November 19, 1298.

more at [Wikipedia](#)

Gertrude the Great (January 6, 1256 c. 1302) was a German Benedictine nun, mystic, and theologian.

Gertrude was born on the feast of the Epiphany, January 6, 1256, in Eisleben, Thuringia.

At the age of four, she entered the monastery school at the monastery of St. Mary at Helfta and was confided to the care of Mechtilde (above). She received a thorough education in a range of subjects.

In 1281, at the age of 25, she experienced the first of a series of visions that continued throughout her life, and which changed the course of her life.

Her priorities shifted away from secular knowledge and toward the study of Scripture and theology. Gertrude devoted herself strongly to personal prayer and meditation, and began writing spiritual treatises for the benefit of her monastic sisters.

Gertrude produced [numerous writings](#), though only some survive today.

The longest survival is the *Legatus Memorialis Abundantiae Divinae Pietatis* (known in English today as *The Herald of Divine Love* or *The Herald of God's Loving-Kindness*).

The Herald is composed of five books:

Book 2 forms the core of the work, and was written by Gertrude herself.

Books 3, 4, and 5 were written by another nun, or possibly more than one, during Gertrude's lifetime and probably at least in part at her dictation.

Book 1 was written shortly before or after Gertrude's death as an introduction to the whole collection, likely by another Helfta nun.

more at [Wikipedia](#)