

What Does It Take? to Make Church?

135th Episcopal Church in Colorado Annual Convention

Morning Prayer, October 15, 9:00 am

Enriching Our Worship

Feast of Teresa of Avila, Mystic and Monastic Reformer, 1582

Opening Sentence

God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*



Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Absolution:

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Officiant: O God, let our mouths proclaim your praise.

People: And your glory all the day long.

Officiant and People: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Day by day we bless you; we praise your name forever.

Invitatory Psalm 63:1-8

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.

For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.

My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.

For you have been my helper, *

and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

Day by day we bless you; we praise your name forever.

The Lessons

1 Samuel 3:1-18

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to

do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” He said, “Here I am.” Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, “It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 42:1-7

¹As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

²My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

³My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?”

⁴I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude
and led them into the house of God,

⁵With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

⁶Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?

⁷Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

St. Theresa's Prayer
(Words and music by John Michael Talbot)

Mark 1:35-39

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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A Song of the Wilderness

Isaiah 35:1-7,10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, *

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

It shall blossom abundantly, *

and rejoice with joy and singing.

They shall see the glory of the Lord, *

the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weary hands, *

and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to the anxious, “Be strong, do not fear! *

Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you.”

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, *

and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.

Then shall the lame leap like a deer, *

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness *

and streams in the desert;

The burning sand shall become a pool *

and the thirsty ground, springs of water.

The ransomed of God shall return with singing, *

with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and
earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,

and 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

Officiant: Hear our cry, O God.

People: **And listen to our prayers.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.

Prayers by Howard Thurman

Whatever disaffection there is between me and those who are or have been very close to me –

I would seek the root or cause of such disaffection, and with the illumination of Your mind, O God, to understand it.

I give myself to Your scrutiny that, whatever there may be in me that is responsible for what has happened,

I will acknowledge.

Where I have wronged or given offense deliberately or without intention,

I seek a face-to-face forgiveness.

What I can undo,

I am willing to try.

What I cannot undo,

with that I seek to make my peace.

How to do these things, what techniques to use, with what spirit,

for these I need and seek Your wisdom and strength, O God.

Whatever disaffection there is between me and those who are or have been very close to me,

I lay bare before You.

The concern which I lay bare before You today is: (Please add your own petitions aloud or silently.)

Amen.

The Collect of the Day

O God, who by your Holy Spirit moved Teresa of Avila to manifest to your church the way of perfection: Grant us, we

pray, to be nourished by her teaching, and enkindle within us a keen and unquenchable longing for true holiness; through Jesus Christ, the joy of loving hearts, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

A Collect for Saturdays

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you;
and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always to your glory and the welfare of your people;
through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A Prayer from A Black Rock Prayer Book

The world now is too dangerous
and too beautiful for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone,

Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.

May your hands be so blessed

that everything you touch is a sacrament.

Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.

May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you.

And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire,

that your love, your love, changes everything.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for every and ever. Amen.

Led by Deacon Jan Pearson and Deacon Nadine Pope.