

Saturday, November 21  
Morning Prayer  
Dionysius

Opening Sentence: Pentecost

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:2

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.

Invitatory

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 Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Venite Psalm 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!

Antiphon

Alleluia. The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Psalm 107:33-43

Part II *Posuit flumina*

33  
The LORD changed rivers into deserts, \*  
and water-springs into thirsty ground,

34  
A fruitful land into salt flats, \*  
because of the wickedness of those who dwell there.

35  
He changed deserts into pools of water \*  
and dry land into water-springs.

36  
He settled the hungry there, \*  
and they founded a city to dwell in.

37  
They sowed fields, and planted vineyards, \*  
and brought in a fruitful harvest.

38  
He blessed them, so that they increased greatly; \*  
he did not let their herds decrease.

39  
Yet when they were diminished and brought low, \*  
through stress of adversity and sorrow,

40  
(He pours contempt on princes \*  
and makes them wander in trackless wastes)

41  
He lifted up the poor out of misery \*  
and multiplied their families like flocks of sheep.

42  
The upright will see this and rejoice, \*  
but all wickedness will shut its mouth.

43  
Whoever is wise will ponder these things, \*  
and consider well the mercies of the LORD.

Psalm 108 *Paratum cor meum*

1  
My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; \*  
I will sing and make melody.

2  
Wake up, my spirit;  
awake, lute and harp; \*  
I myself will waken the dawn.

3  
I will confess you among the peoples, O LORD; \*  
I will sing praises to you among the nations.

4  
For your loving-kindness is greater than the heavens, \*  
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

5  
Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, \*  
and your glory over all the earth.

6  
So that those who are dear to you may be delivered, \*  
save with your right hand and answer me.

Gloria Patri

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.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 65:17-25 (NRSV)

17 For I am about to create new heavens  
and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.

18 But be glad and rejoice forever  
in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it  
an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-  
and their descendants as well.

24 Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent-its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 12 A Song of Creation

*Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

*Invocation*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

*I The Cosmic Order*

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
all winds and fire and heat.

Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
drops of dew and flakes of snow>

Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
O shining light and enfolding dark.

Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

*II The Earth and its Creatures*

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,  
and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.

All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.

O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### *III The People of God*

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### *Doxology*

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

New Testament Lesson

Revelation 22:14-21 (NRSV)

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16 "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come."

And let everyone who hears say, "Come."

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book; 19 if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

20 The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 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 for ever. Amen.

Dionysius, 21 November 265

Dionysius was a pupil of Origen in the great catechetical school in Alexandria, and then headed that school himself for fourteen years. In 247 he was made bishop of Alexandria. Persecution soon after broke out, and he directed his church from hiding for several years, until the death of the Emperor Decian in 251. In the period of peace that followed, Dionysius was a zealous supporter of lenient treatment for the lapsed (those who had renounced the faith under pressure, and now wished to be received back into the Church). His seventeen years as a bishop were turbulent ones, during which Alexandria suffered civil strife, plague, and famine, and the church was subject to repeated persecutions. He died on 17 November 265, but his commemoration is here transferred to the first open day. (What constitutes an "open" day depends, of course, on whom else one is commemorating.)

Dionysius was a scholar, a keen student of pagan as well as Christian learning.

Faced with the rise of a heretical opinion in his diocese, he proceeded, not by excommunication, but by challenging his opponents to a public debate, with the thirty of them on one side and himself on the other. The debate lasted three days, by the end of which time he had talked all thirty of his opponents round to his side.

Only a few of his considerable writings have survived. One detail that I have encountered in a Bible commentary is his suggestion that the book of Revelation had a different author from the Gospel of John, a view which he based on differences in the style of writing and other internal evidence. (The reader is reminded that the writer of the book of Revelation tells us that his name is John, but not that he is the Apostle of that name, so that Dionysius cannot be said to be contradicting the Bible.)

written by James Kiefer

## Prayer

O God, who have enlightened your Church by the teaching of your Servant Dionysius: Enrich us evermore with your heavenly grace, and raise up faithful witnesses who by their life and doctrine will set forth the truth of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen.

## 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, 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 A

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;

Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day: Pentecost, proper 28

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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.

For Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

World Cycle of Prayer

We pray for the people of Serbia and Montenegro.

[Serbia and Montenegro government website](#)

Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer

We pray for our sisters and brothers, members of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship.

[The Vineyard Christian Fellowship](#)

For Joy in God's Creation

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the

sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### For the Good Use of Leisure

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### For the Unemployed

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; 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.

### General Thanksgiving

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

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. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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*