



ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SOULS ARE WELCOME. INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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EVENING PRAYER: RITE TWO

FEAST OF POLYCARP

Bishop and Martyr of Smyrna, 156

February 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting ID: 928 461 1047, Passcode: StMichael

PRESIDER

Richard Hendricks

RESPONDER

Sandy Davis

READER

Nani Banks

OPENING SENTENCE

PSALM 141:2

(BCP p. 115)

Presider: Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

(BCP p. 116)

Presider: 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.**

Presider: 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

Presider: O God, be not far from us.

Responder: **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen. Alleluia.**

O GRACIOUS LIGHT

(EOW p. 23)

Presider and responder

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
Mirror of God's eternal face,
**Transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our race.**
Now, as we see the lights of evening,
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;
**Worthy are you of endless blessing,
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.**



PSALM APPOINTED

PSALM 121

(BCP p. 730)

*Presider and **responder** alternate by whole verse.*

THE PSALM APPOINTED FOR TONIGHT IS PSALM 121:

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 **My help comes from the LORD, ***
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ***
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 **So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ***
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE READINGS

THE FIRST READING

PROVERBS 6:1-19

NANI BANKS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROVERBS:

My child, if you have given your pledge to your neighbor,
if you have bound yourself to another,
you are snared by the utterance of your lips, caught by the words of your mouth.
So do this, my child, and save yourself, for you have come into your neighbor's power:
go, hurry, and plead with your neighbor.
Give your eyes no sleep and your eyelids no slumber;
save yourself like a gazelle from the hunter, like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise.
Without having any chief or officer or ruler,
it prepares its food in summer, and gathers its sustenance in harvest.
How long will you lie there, O lazybones? When will you rise from your sleep?
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,
and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want, like an armed warrior.

A scoundrel and a villain goes around with crooked speech,
winking the eyes, shuffling the feet, pointing the fingers,



with perverted mind devising evil, continually sowing discord;
on such a one calamity will descend suddenly; in a moment, damage beyond repair.

There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him:
haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to evil,
a lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a family.

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

Responder: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SONG OF MARY

LUKE 1:46-55

(EOW p. 27)

Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior; *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name.

You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm, *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones, *
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things, *
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

The promise you made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children forever.

THE SECOND READING

JOHN 11:45-54

NANI BANKS

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN:

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, "What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation." But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed." He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews, but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness; and he remained there with the disciples.

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

Responder: **Thanks be to God.**



THE SONG OF SIMEON

LUKE 2:29-32

(BCP p. 120)

Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

APOSTLES' CREED

(BCP p. 120)

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'S PRAYER

(BCP p. 121)

Presider: God be with you.
Responder: **And also with you.**
Presider: Let us pray.

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 B

(BCP p. 121)

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.
That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.



That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of St. Michael the Archangel and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

POLYCARP OF SMYRNA (*LFF p. 107*)

O God, the maker of heaven and earth, you gave your venerable servant, the holy and gentle Polycarp, the boldness to confess Jesus Christ as King and Savior and the steadfastness to die for his faith: Give us grace, following his example, to share the cup of Christ and to rise to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

(*BCP p. 124*)

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR MISSION

(*BCP p. 124*)

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Presider: Are there any prayers or thanksgivings you wish to offer?
The people may offer their intercessions and thanksgivings.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

(*BCP p. 126*)

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.**

Presider Let us bless the Lord.
Responder **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING SENTENCE

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

(*BCP p. 126*)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**



POLYCARP

Bishop and Martyr of Smyrna, 156

Polycarp, born in the year 69, was one of the leaders of the church who carried on the tradition of the apostles through the troubled controversies around Gnosticism in the second century. According to Irenaeus, who had known him in his early youth, Polycarp was a pupil of John, “the disciple of the Lord,” and had been appointed a bishop by “apostles in Asia.”

We possess a letter from Polycarp to the Church in Philippi. It reveals his firm adherence to the faith, and his pastoral concern for fellow Christians in trouble.

An early account of the martyrdom of Polycarp on February 23rd is also preserved. It probably occurred in the year 156. The account tells of Polycarp’s courageous witness in the amphitheater at Smyrna. When the proconsul asked him to curse Christ, Polycarp said, “Eighty-six years I have served him, and he never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?” The account reports that the magistrate was reluctant to kill the gentle and harmless old man, but his hand was forced by the mob, who clamored that he be thrown to wild beasts, as was the fate of other Christians on that day.

Instead, Polycarp was burned at the stake. Before his ordeal, he is reported to have looked up to heaven, and to have prayed: “Lord God Almighty, Father of your beloved and blessed child Jesus Christ, through whom we have received knowledge of you, God of angels and hosts and all creation, and of the whole race of the upright who live in your presence, I bless you that you have thought me worthy of this day and hour, to be numbered among the martyrs and share in the cup of Christ, for resurrection to eternal life, for soul and body in the incorruptibility of the Holy Spirit. Among them may I be accepted before you today, as a rich and acceptable sacrifice just as you, the faithful and true God, have prepared and foreshown and brought about. For this reason and for all things I praise you, I bless you, I glorify you, through the eternal heavenly high priest Jesus Christ, your beloved child, through whom be glory to you, with him and the Holy Spirit, now and for the ages to come. Amen.”

Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 p. 106

The people of Saint Michael's welcome all those who seek a deeper understanding of God's love for ALL His children. Our congregation is "intentionally inclusive," welcoming all persons without regard to age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or developmental disability.

This service conforms to Daily Evening Prayer: Rite Two, which begins on page 115 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Scripture readings are appointed by the Daily Office Lectionary and are excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA or the Common English Bible (CEB), copyright 2011. Psalm texts are taken from the BCP. Other liturgical elements may include materials compiled from Episcopal Church publications including *Enriching Our Worship (EOW)*, the 2018 Book of Occasional Services (BOS), and the 2018 Lesser Feasts and Fasts (LFF).