

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Jim Friedel

ALL HALLOWS' EVE
October 31, 2021 ~ 6:00 PM



"LORD, hear my prayer, and in your
faithfulness heed my supplications;
answer me in your righteousness."

~ Psalm 143:1

ALL HALLOWS' EVE
October 31, 2021 ~ 6:00 pm

(BCP Pages 109-111)

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Celebrant

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation - the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Light

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Gracious Light

(BCP Page 112)

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

THE LESSONS

A reading from the First Book of Samuel: 28:3-25

Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. Saul had expelled the mediums and the wizards from the land. The Philistines assembled, and came and encamped at Shunem. Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. When Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, not by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go to her and inquire of her." His servants said to him, "There is a medium at Endor."

So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes and went there, he and two men with him. They came to the woman by night. And he said, "Consult a spirit for me, and bring up for me the one whom I name to you." The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the wizards from the land. Why then are you laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?" But Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He answered, "Bring up Samuel for me." When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice; and the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!" The king said to her, "Have no fear; what do you see?" The woman said to Saul, "I see a divine being coming up out of the ground." He said to her, "What is his appearance?" She said, "An old man is coming up; he is wrapped in a robe." So Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground, and did obeisance.

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams; so I have summoned you to tell me what I should do." Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done to you just as he spoke by me; for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand, and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD, and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you today. Moreover the LORD will give Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines; and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me; the LORD will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines."

Immediately Saul fell full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel; and there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. The woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified, she said to him, "Your servant has listened to you; I have taken my life in my hand, and have listened to what you have said to me. Now therefore, you also listen to your servant; let me set a morsel of bread before you. Eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way." He refused, and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, urged him; and he listened to their words. So he got up from the ground and sat on the bed. Now the woman had a fatted calf in the house. She quickly slaughtered it, and she took flour, kneaded it, and baked unleavened cakes. She put them before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Witch of Endor

Psalm 130

(BCP Pages 784-785)

Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice;*
 let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.

If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss,
 O Lord, who could stand?

For there is forgiveness with you;
 therefore you shall be feared.

I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him;
 in his word is my hope.

My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning,
 more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the LORD,
 for with the LORD there is mercy;

With him there is plenteous redemption,
 and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Reflection

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, you have made all things in your wisdom and established the boundaries of life and death: Grant that we may obey your voice in this world, and in the world to come may enjoy that rest and peace which you have appointed for your people; through Jesus Christ who is Resurrection and Life, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A reading from the Book of Job 4:12-21

Now a word came stealing to me,

my ear received the whisper of it.

Amid thoughts from visions of the night,

when deep sleep falls on mortals,

dread came upon me, and trembling,

which made all my bones shake.

A spirit glided past my face;

the hair of my flesh bristled.

It stood still,

but I could not discern its appearance.

A form was before my eyes;

there was silence, then I heard a voice:

'Can mortals be righteous before God?

Can human beings be pure before their Maker?

Even in his servants he puts no trust,

and his angels he charges with error;

how much more those who live in houses of clay,

whose foundation is in the dust,

who are crushed like a moth.

Between morning and evening they are destroyed;

they perish forever without any regarding it.

Their tent-cord is plucked up within them,

and they die devoid of wisdom.'

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Vision of Eliphaz

Psalm 13

(BCP Pages 597-598)

How long, O LORD?
will you forget me for ever?
how long will you hide your face from me?

How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,
and grief in my heart, day after day?
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?

Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God;
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

But I put my trust in your mercy;
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.

I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly;
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Reflection

Let us pray.

You, O Lord, have made us from the dust of the earth and to dust our bodies shall return; yet you have also breathed your Spirit upon us and called us to new life in you: Have mercy upon us, now and at the hour of our death; through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and advocate. *Amen.*

I will sing to the LORD
because he has dealt
bountifully with me.



Psalm 13:6, ND8V

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Valley of the Dry Bones

Psalm 143:1-11

(BCP Pages 798-799)

LORD, hear my prayer,
and in your faithfulness heed my supplications;
answer me in your righteousness.

Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

For my enemy has sought my life;
he has crushed me to the ground;
he has made me live in dark places like those who
are long dead.

My spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is desolate.

I remember the time past;
I muse upon all your deeds;
I consider the works of your hands.

I spread out my hands to you;
my soul gasps to you like a thirsty land.

O LORD, make haste to answer me, my spirit fails me;
do not hide your face from me
or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.

Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for I put my trust in you;
show me the road that I must walk,
for I lift up my soul to you.

Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD,
for I flee to you for refuge.

Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God;
let your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Revive me, O LORD, for your Name's sake;
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

Reflection

Let us pray.

O God, you have called your people to your service from age to age. Do not give us over to death, but raise us up to serve you, to praise you, and to glorify your Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hymn: Holy God We Praise Thy Name

(Hymn #366)

The Lord's Prayer

(C-114)

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

*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.

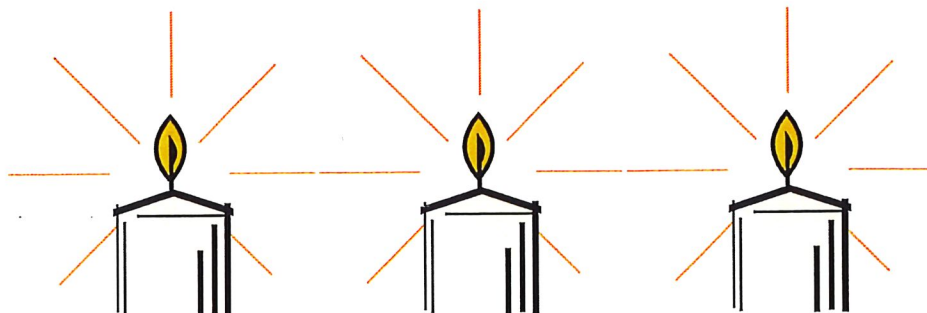
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

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

Collect for All Saints' Day

(BCP Page 245)

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*



Blessing

The Celebrant says

May the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, giving you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the wonderful works of God; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

All *Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.*





"I will put my SPIRIT within you,
and you shall LIVE" ...

Ezekiel 37:14