

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
96 Jewett Parkway • Buffalo, NY 14214

July 29, 2026

Mary and Martha of Bethany

6:30 P.M.

Congregational responses are **in bold**.

Opening Hymn

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

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

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

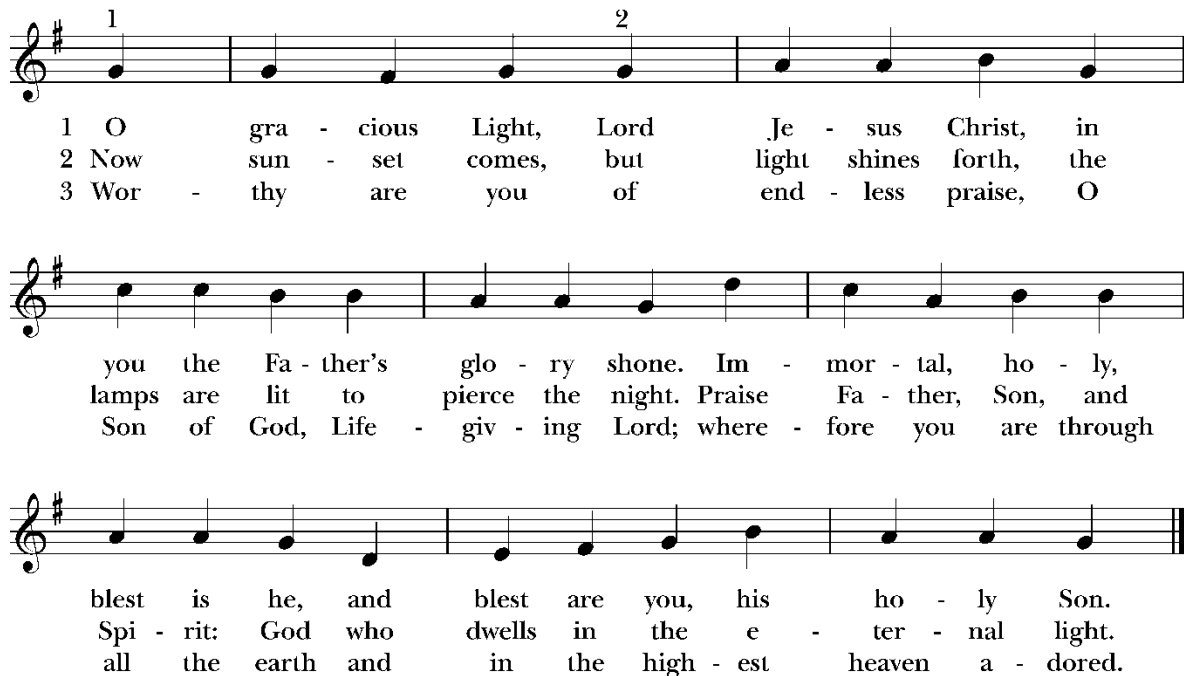
Officiant O God, be not far from us.

People **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 for ever. Amen.**

Except in Lent add Alleluia.

Phos hilaron



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.

Words: Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O Gracious Light*. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.
Music: *The Eighth Tune*, Thomas Tallis (1505?-1585); adapt. *Hymnal* 1982.

Psalm 36:1-5 (St. Helena Psalter)

said responsively by the half verse

1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *

do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *

and like the green grass fade away.

3 Put your trust in God and do good; *

dwelt in the land and feed on its riches.

4 Take delight in God, *

who shall give you your heart's desire.

5 Commit your way to God and put your trust in God, *

who will bring it to pass.

A Reading from First Samuel

(25:18-38)

Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys ¹⁹and said to her young men, "Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. ²⁰As she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, David and his men came down toward her; and she met them. ²¹Now David had said, "Surely it was in vain that I protected all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing

was missed of all that belonged to him; but he has returned me evil for good. ²²God do so to David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

²³When Abigail saw David, she hurried and alighted from the donkey and fell before David on her face, bowing to the ground. ²⁴She fell at his feet and said, "Upon me alone, my lord, be the guilt; please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. ²⁵My lord, do not take seriously this ill-natured fellow, Nabal; for as his name is, so is he; Nabal is his name, and folly is with him; but I, your servant, did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent.

²⁶Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, since the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from taking vengeance with your own hand, now let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be like Nabal. ²⁷And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. ²⁸Please forgive the trespass of your servant; for the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD; and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. ²⁹If anyone should rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living under the care of the LORD your God; but the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. ³⁰When the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you prince over Israel, ³¹my lord shall have no cause of grief, or pangs of conscience, for having shed blood without cause or for having saved himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."

³²David said to Abigail, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who sent you to meet me today! ³³Blessed be your good sense, and blessed be you, who have kept me today from bloodguilt and from avenging myself by my own hand! ³⁴For as surely as the LORD the God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from hurting you, unless you had hurried and come to meet me, truly by morning there would not have been left to Nabal so much as one male." ³⁵Then David received from her hand what she had brought him; he said to her, "Go up to your house in peace; see, I have heeded your voice, and I have granted your petition."

³⁶Abigail came to Nabal; he was holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. Nabal's heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; so she told him nothing at all until the morning light. ³⁷In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him; he became like a stone.

³⁸About ten days later the LORD struck Nabal, and he died.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blessed. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

Refrain

Mary and Martha of Bethany

Mary and Martha of Bethany are described in the Gospels according to Luke and John as close and well-loved friends of Jesus. Luke records the well-known story of their hospitality, which has made Martha a symbol of the active life and Mary of the contemplative.

John's Gospel sheds additional light on the characters of Mary and Martha. When their brother Lazarus is dying, Jesus delays his visit to the family and arrives after Lazarus' death. Martha comes to meet him, still trusting in his power to heal and restore. The exchange between them evokes Martha's deep faith and acknowledgment of Jesus as the Messiah (John 11:21-27).

John also records the supper at Bethany at which Mary anointed Jesus' feet with fragrant ointment and wiped them with her hair.

This tender gesture of love evoked criticism from the disciples. Jesus interpreted the gift as a preparation for his death and burial. The devotion and friendship of Mary and Martha have been an example of fidelity and service to the Lord. Their hospitality and kindness, and Jesus' enjoyment of their company, show us the beauty of human friendship and love at its best. *—from Lesser Feast and Fasts, 2022*

Nunc dimittis

1 Lord let your servant now depart ~ into your promised rest,
Since my expecting eyes have been ~ with your salvation blest.

2 Which till this time your favoured saints ~ and prophets only knew:
Long since prepared but now set forth ~ in all your peoples' view.

3 A light to show the Gentile world ~ the way to saving grace;
But O, the light and glory both ~ of Israel's chosen race.

All glory to the Father, Son ~ and Spirit, One and Three,
As was, and is and shall be so ~ through all eternity

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ

38Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." 41But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42there is need of only one thing.

Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

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 Prayers

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

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 all your
saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

The Collect of the Day

O God, heavenly Father, your Son Jesus Christ enjoyed
rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha

of Bethany: Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in others for his sake; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer 2, Enriching Our Worship)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God,
source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation.

Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being:

sun, moon, and stars;

earth, winds, and waters;

and every living thing.

You made us in your image,

and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;

and yet, as a mother cares for her children,

you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us

to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels

in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,

lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death

and to reveal the riches of your grace,

you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,

that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
"Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:
"Drink this, all of you:
This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine,
and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts
that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth
and make us your new creation,

the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.
In the fullness of time bring us,
with [*Mary and Martha* and] all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared
from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,
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.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia

The Gifts of God given for us, the beloved of God: Come and be fed.

Communion Hymn

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

**God of abundance,
you have fed us
with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us
with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one
with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth
in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever
in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Our worship has ended, our service continues:
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.