

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

September 2, 2026

Evening Prayer

Phoebe, Deacon

6:00 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 *us*, forgive *us* all your 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.**

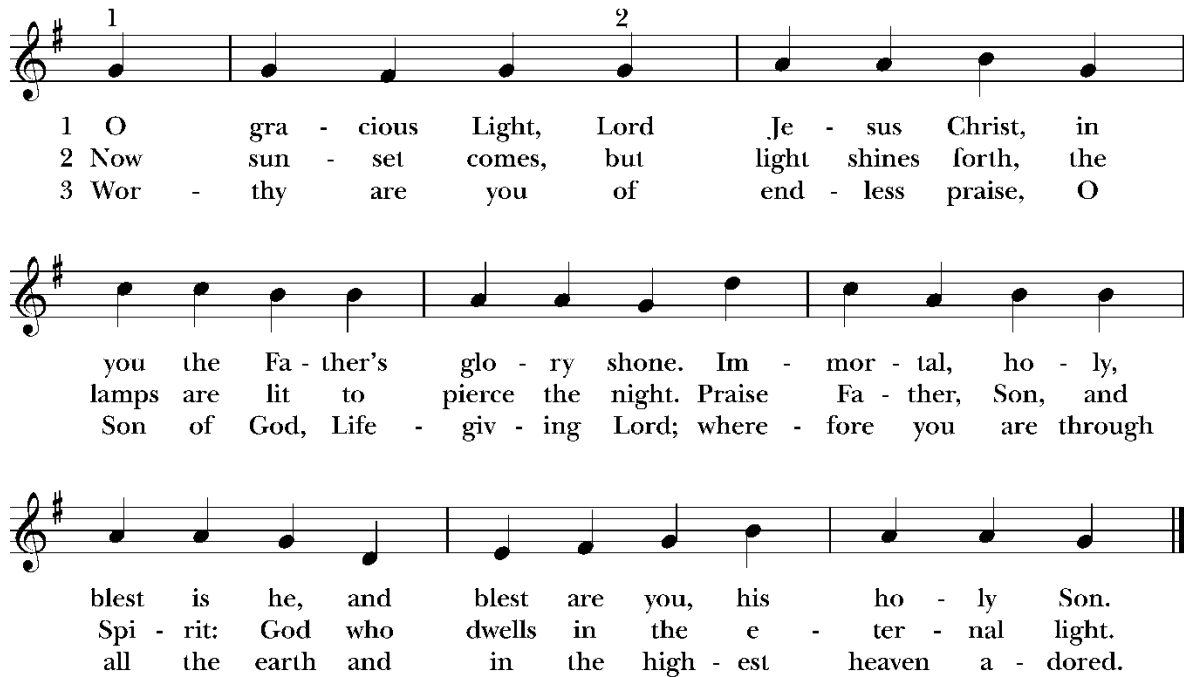
Officiant O God, be not far from us.

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 40:4-10 (St. Helena Psalter)

said responsively by the half verse

4 Happy are they who trust in you; *

they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

5 Great things are they that you have done, O God;

how great your wonders and your plans for us; *

there is none who can be compared with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them, *

but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *

(you have given me ears to hear you);

8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *

and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *

'I love to do your will, O my God;

your law is deep in my heart.' "

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *

behold, I did not restrain my lips,

and that, O God, you know.

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans
(16:1-7)

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon* of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well. Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus (Epanatus), who was the first convert* in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. Greet Andronicus and Junia,* my relatives* who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

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

Please stand, as able, for the singing of the
Canticle of the Turning *Insert*

Daigle/Cooley/Donohoo

A Reading from Luke's Gospel

A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Phoebe: Trusted & Chosen

Phoebe was a woman entrusted by Paul to bring his letter to Rome and preach his words to the local congregation. By her reading the letter aloud, she was teaching and exhorting as a trusted and capable woman, bringing her own oral skill and preaching ability to his words.

Paul exhibits no preference of men over women by his act of selecting a female to teach at the church in Rome. Additionally, Paul sends his greetings to many key female leaders of the church such as Priscilla and Junia in the same letter.[8]

Phoebe was chosen by Paul to present his words to the house churches and to interpret the letter to those who desired more clarity, had questions, or wanted to hear more.[9]

We do ourselves, the church, and women especially a disservice if we fail to recognize what the implications of this assignment tasked to Phoebe meant for her as a leader and intelligent woman of authority.

Today, we have a title for the person that can stand before a congregation, communicate with oral skill and clarity the message of scripture. That title is “preacher”.[10]

Where Christianity spread in the early church, women lead in house churches, and women preached. Mary, the mother of John mark, oversaw a house church in Jerusalem Apphia oversaw a house church in Colossae with two others), Nympha led in Laodicea, Lydia led in Thyatira, and Phoebe led in Cenchreae

If all people are called to preach and testify about Jesus, (Acts 10:42-43), why have women ever been excluded?

<https://knowyourmothers.com/blog/phoebe-mother-of-preachers>

*Please remain seated for the singing of the
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 Call and Response Apostles' Creed.

(from Church of England, Common Worship)

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in God's Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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

Presider: Hear our cry, O God.

And listen to our prayer.

Let us pray.

Leader: For the Church of God in every place, that it may persevere in faith and hope, we pray to you.

Christ, have mercy

For all who minister in your Church that they may have grace to build up your people in love, we pray to you.

Christ, have mercy.

For the leaders of the countries, that they will heed your call and persistently pursue peace, we pray to you,

Christ have mercy.

For the sick, the hopeless and those in danger, *especially those we now name [PAUSE]*

We pray to you,

Christ have mercy.

For the dying and the dead, that they will rest in peace, *especially those we now name [PAUSE]*

We pray to you,

Christ have mercy.

The Collect of the Day

Eternal God, who raised up Phoebe as a deacon in your church and minister of your Gospel; Grant us that same grace that, assisted by her prayers and example, we too may take the Gospel to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

The Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.