

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

September 23, 2026

St. Matthew (tr)

6:00 P.M.

Congregational responses are **in bold**.

Opening Hymn

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but citizens together
with the saints and members of the household of God. *Ephesians 2:19*

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.**

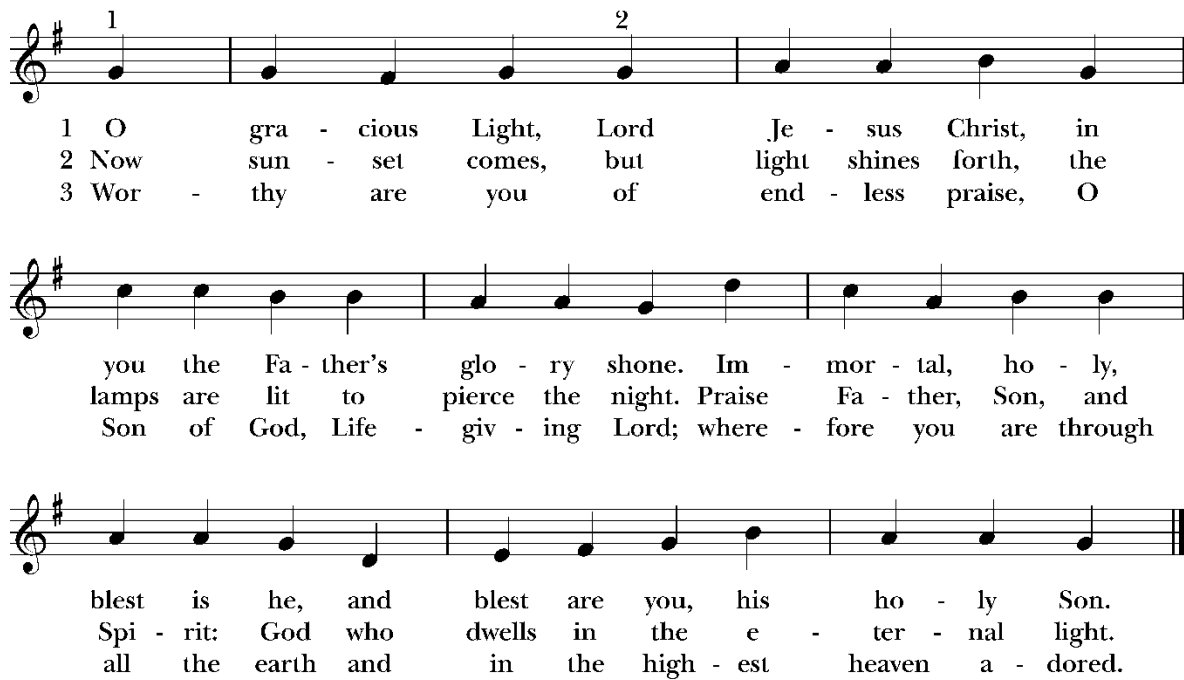
Officiant O God, be not far from us.

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 119 (St. Helena Psalter)

said responsively by the half verse

33 Teach me, O God, the way of your statutes, *

and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *

I shall keep it with all my heart.

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *

for that is my desire.

36 Incline my heart to your decrees *

and not to unjust gain.

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *

give me life in your ways.

38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *

which you make to those who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *

because your judgments are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *

in your righteousness preserve my life.

A Reading from Proverbs

(3:1-6)

My son, don't forget my instruction.

Let your heart guard my commands,
because they will help you live a long time
and provide you with well-being.

Don't let loyalty and faithfulness leave you.

Bind them on your neck;
write them on the tablet of your heart.

Then you will find favor and approval
in the eyes of God and humanity.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;
don't rely on your own intelligence.

Know him in all your paths,
and he will keep your ways straight.

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

Canticle of the Turning

Daigle/Cooley/Donohoo

Insert

The Apostle Matthew.

One day Jesus was walking and saw a tax collector named Matthew sitting at a tax collection post, and said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew stood up and followed Him, and became one of His twelve apostles. (See M 9:9-13 = P 2:13-17 = L 5:27-32) Tax collectors in those days were social outcasts. Devout Jews avoided them because they were usually dishonest (the job carried no salary, and they were expected to make their profits by cheating the people from whom they collected taxes). Patriotic and nationalistic Jews hated them because they were agents of the Roman government, the conquerors, and hated them with a double hatred if (like Matthew) they were Jews, because they had gone over to the enemy, had betrayed their own people for money. Thus, throughout the Gospels, we find tax collectors (publicans) mentioned as a standard type of sinful and despised outcast. Matthew brought many of his former associates to meet Jesus, and social outcasts in general were shown that the love of Jesus extended even to them. *(from The Lectionary)*

Please stand for the proclamation of the Gospel

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Now is the time for judgment of this world. Now this world's ruler will be thrown out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (He said this to show how he was going to die.)

The crowd responded, "We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Human One must be lifted up? Who is this Human One?" Jesus replied, "The light is with you for only a little while. Walk while you have the light so that darkness doesn't overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness don't know where they are going. As long as you have the light, believe in the light so that you might become people whose lives are determined by the light." After Jesus said these things, he went away and hid from them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

*Please remain sitting 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

We thank you, heavenly Father, for the witness of your apostle and evangelist

Matthew to the Gospel of your Son our Savior; and we pray that, after his example, we

may with ready wills and hearts obey the calling of our Lord to follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

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 [*St. Matthew* 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 sing,
Our Father
Which 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 debts
As we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom
And the power
And the glory
Forever
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.

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.**

The Blessing

Life is short, And we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So... be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, + who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and forever. AMEN

Communion Hymn

The Dismissal

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