

ST. MARY OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOWING ROCK, NORTH CAROLINA

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR NOONDAY

December 23, 2020 at 12:00 PM

Join the service via Zoom here –
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87062690000>

Join the service via YouTube here –
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSIE6UDGf9FyTvPRGs8_1A

A prayerful silence precedes the service.

THE OPENING SENTENCE

BCP 103

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Except in Lent, add **Alleluia.**

THE PSALTER

Psalm 25: 1-14

The Officiant and People read responsively by whole verse, pausing at the asterisks.

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

- 2 **Let none who look to you be put to shame; ***
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 **Lead me in your truth and teach me, ***
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 **Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; ***
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 **He guides the humble in doing right ***
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- 10 **For your Name's sake, O Lord, ***
forgive my sin, for it is great.
- 11 Who are they who fear the Lord? *
he will teach them the way that they should choose.
- 12 **They shall dwell in prosperity, ***
and their offspring shall inherit the land.
- 13 The Lord is a friend to those who fear him *
and will show them his covenant.
- 14 **My eyes are ever looking to the Lord, ***
for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

At the end of the Psalms is sung or said

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Luke 1: 57-66

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Andrew J. Hege

A few moments of silence for reflection follow the homily.

THE PRAYERS

BCP 106

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Officiant Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Officiant Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

**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.**

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer.

People **And let our cry come to you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Free intercessions may be offered.
The people add their own petitions and thanksgiving.
These may be shared with one another in the chat box on Zoom or YouTube.*

The Officiant concludes the prayers with this collect,

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.**

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

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