

Service for Noonday September 15, 2020

Hello and welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Altus, Oklahoma. We will use the service for Noonday found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 103. There is also a link to this document on the main page of our website: stpauls-altus.org. If you have a prayer request or desire to give thanks please type them in during the service, everyone will be able to see them.

Before we begin let us pause in silence

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

Let us read **Psalm 119 found on page 103**, together in unison (read from prayer book)

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

A Reading From: Matthew 14:1-14

At that time Herod the tetrarch heard the reports about Jesus, and he said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead! That is why miraculous powers are at work in him." Now Herod had arrested John and bound him and put him in prison because of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, for John had been saying to him: "It is not lawful for you to have her." Herod wanted to kill John, but he was afraid of the people, because they considered John a prophet. On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for the guests and pleased Herod so much that he promised with an oath to give her whatever she asked. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and his dinner guests, he ordered that her request be granted and had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who carried it to her mother. John's disciples came and

took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus. When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Commentary from Our Daily Bread

My friend Ellen calculates payroll for an accounting firm. This may sound like a straightforward job, but there are times when employers submit their information later than requested. Ellen often makes up for this by working long hours so employees can receive their money without delay. She does this out of consideration for the families that depend on those funds to buy groceries, purchase medicine, and pay for housing.

Ellen's compassionate approach to her job points me to Jesus. On earth, He sometimes ministered to people when it was inconvenient for Him. For instance, Christ wanted some alone time after He heard that John the Baptist had been killed, so He boarded a boat in search of an isolated place (Matthew 14:13). Perhaps He needed to grieve for His relative and pray through His sorrow.

There was just one problem. Crowds of people tagged along behind Him. This group had various physical needs. It would have been much easier to send the people away, but "when Jesus landed and saw [them], he had compassion on them and healed their sick".

Although it was part of Jesus' calling to teach people and cure their diseases as He ministered on earth, His empathy affected the way in which He carried out His responsibilities. May God help us to recognize His compassion in our lives and give us the strength to pass it on to others.

Reflect & Pray

How have you experienced God's compassion and care? What prevents you from showing God's love when you carry out your daily responsibilities?

The Prayers

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Lord, hear our prayer;

And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family, St. Paul's. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Lord we ask for your blessing and guidance especially for our priest, Mother Suzanne.

We pray for healing for all who are affected by the Corona Virus, and safety for our health care workers and first responders.

Heavenly Father, Giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, those known and unknown to us, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their distress and have sure knowledge of your loving care through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

For those we Love

Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that you are doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Those Who Live Alone

Almighty God, whose Son had nowhere to lay his head: Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but that, following in his steps, they may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For those in the Armed Forces of our Country

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Pray for protection for people around the world who are vulnerable and being persecuted; pray for all law enforcement officers and firefighters. Pray for our country, our state, for our city of Altus; pray for our President and other leaders that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

We pray for The Episcopal Church, for our Presiding Bishop Michael, for our own Bishop Poulson.

For Social Justice: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart (and especially the hearts of the people of this land), that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own 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.

The Ending

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.