

**A Liturgy of Blessing
The Great Land
for the People of Alaska
with the Bishops of the Episcopal Church**



September 23rd, 2017

Liturgy for Blessing Alaska

(adapted from Morning Prayer Rite II BCP)

*Congregation Response printed in **bold***

All stand

God, you send forth your Spirit and all is created;
and so you renew the face of the earth. *Psalm 104*

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not cared for the earth as good stewards.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. 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.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**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.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.

Jubilate: Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Psalm 19 *Caeli enarrant*

The heavens declare the glory of God,
*and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**One day tells its tale to another,
*and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Although they have no words or language,
*and their voices are not heard,
**Their sound has gone out into all lands,
*and their message to the ends of the world.**

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
*it comes forth like a bridegroom
out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
*nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

The law of the LORD is perfect
and revives the soul;
*the testimony of the LORD is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
**The statutes of the LORD are just
and rejoice the heart;
*the commandment of the LORD is clear
and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the LORD is clean and endures for ever;
*the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, *
*sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb.**

By them also is your servant enlightened,
*and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Who can tell how often he offends?
*cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Above all, keep your servant
from presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
*then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
*O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

**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 Lessons

Ezekiel 47:1, 7-9, 12

A Reading from Ezekiel.

Then the Lord brought me back to the entrance of the temple; there, water was flowing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east); and the water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. As I came back, I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the sea, the sea of stagnant waters, the water will become fresh. Wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish, once these waters reach there. It will become fresh; and everything will live where the river goes. On the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Song of Creation: Part One *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

Invocation

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

II The Earth and its Creatures

Let the earth glorify the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills,
and all that grows upon the earth, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, *
 O whales and all that move in the waters.
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, *
 praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, *
 and all you flocks and herds.
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord,*
 Praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

John 4:5-15

A reading from the Gospel of John.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Song of Creation: Part Two

III The People of God

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, *

praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Doxology

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

The Prayers

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

**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.**

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.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
Govern them and uphold them, now and always.

Day by day we bless you;

We praise your name for ever.

Lord, keep us from all sin today;

Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy;

For we put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope;

And we shall never hope in vain.

The Procession

Where the liturgy began in the church, the people may continue in the church or may now process/gather at an appropriate site to bless the land, water, and people.

A Collect for Stewardship of Creation O merciful Creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Conservation of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation: Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for the Beauty of the Earth We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. *Amen*

Blessing

Each community has its own traditions. Prayer, storytelling, and/or gifts of respect for the river may be offered. The people of the community will lead these in their own manner and in their own words, asking any petitions or prayer intentions. At the conclusion, the bishops present may be invited to lead a final blessing, which may be offered in these or similar words:

Bishops: May God the Father pour blessing
upon the earth that God has made.

People: **May God the Son pour mercy
upon the earth that God has made.**

Bishops: May God the Holy Spirit pour healing
upon the earth that God has made.

People: **Upon our communities, our people, our land.**

Bishops: May the land be filled with abundance,

People: **And the waters filled with life.**

Bishops: And may the blessing, mercy and grace of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
be upon this living world,

All: **Upon our ancestors,
upon our mothers and our fathers,
upon us and upon our children,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Bishops: Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit

People: **Thanks be to God.**