

Opening Prayer

Those assembled should gather before the icon corner, or the place designated for the prayer. Candles, if available, should be lit as well as incense to create an attitude of prayer. The Officiant, V, begins the service and appoints readers if necessary/desired. Those assembled, R, read responsively to the officiant.

Opening Sentences

V. O Lord, open thou our lips.

R. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

V. + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

R. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Oh God, we are heartily sorry for having offended thee. And we detest all of our sins because of thy just punishments. For we dread the loss of Heaven, and we fear the pains of hell. But most of all, because our sins offend thee, O God, who art all good and deserving of all our love. We firmly intend with thy help to do penance, to avoid near occasions of sin, and to amend our ways. Amen.

Psalm 96:1-9

1 Oh sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth!

2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;

tell of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples!

4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

he is to be feared above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

6 Splendor and majesty are before him;

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

9 Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;

tremble before him, all the earth!

V. + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

R. Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Gospel Reading: The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30)

℣. The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew

℟. + Glory to Thee, O Lord, Glory to Thee

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[a] and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

℣. The Gospel of the Lord

℟. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Pater Noster

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect of the Ponderer's

℣. Most High God and Father of all, look down upon us, your humble servants. By thy Holy Spirit inspire in us a desire to serve you, and enflame our talents with the fire of your Love so that all we create and do may be to your glory. Through the example of your saints, (especially the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sts. Thomas Aquinas/Herman of Alaska/*insert St. of the Day*, and all the company of Heaven) may our lives be pleasing unto you. Pour out thy grace upon this fellowship, that together we may run the race to our heavenly homeland where we may praise you with all the angels and saints.

℟. Amen

End