

NOONDAY PRAYER

The Church of the Holy Trinity

Juneau, Alaska

Readings for July 13 - 18, 2026



Schadow, Friedrich Wilhelm von, 1789-1862. Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, detail, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
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Monday, July 13 2026

The service for noonday can be found by going to our website trinityjuneau.org and clicking on the Noonday Prayers link.

O God, make speed to save us.

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

15 Domine, quis habitabit?

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

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.

Matthew 25:1-13

25‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids* took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.* 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” 7Then all those bridesmaids* got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” 9But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” 10And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11Later the other bridesmaids* came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” 12But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” 13Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

A meditation, silent or spoken, may follow.

The Officiant then begins the Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

Lord, hear our prayer;

And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy: Give your blessings to the Diocese of Alaska. Watch over our churches, sustain our people, strengthen our leaders. Through the Holy Spirit, guide and guard the Diocese, keeping it always under your care and protection. Let us be a loving family, serving you in faithful devotion to the Gospel of your son, Jesus Christ.

Give your blessings to Mark our bishop. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love. Let your Holy Spirit be his companion. Let your Gospel be always in his thoughts. May your presence in his life be a light for all to see, in every good work for the building up of your people and to the Glory of your Holy Name.

Give us the blessing of your example. Help us to follow in the Way of Jesus today and every day. Give us compassion at the center of all we do: Compassion for ourselves, as disciples still young in faith; compassion for others as members of our own family in God. Let us become examples for others as so many others have been examples to us, through your love and for the sake of your glory.

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.

Free intercessions may be offered.

Amen.

CONRAD WEISER

WITNESS TO PEACE and RECONCILIATION, 1760

Almighty God, of your grace you gave Conrad Weiser the gift of diplomacy, the insight to understand two different cultures and interpret each to the other with clarity and honesty: As we strive to be faithful to our vocation to commend your kingdom, help us to proclaim the Gospel to the many cultures around us, that by your Holy Spirit we may be effective ambassadors for our Savior Jesus Christ; who with you and the same Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Final Collect

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand. (Celtic)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May God bless the work of our hands. **Amen**



Conrad Weiser (November 2, 1696 – July 13, 1760), born Johann Conrad Weiser, Jr., was a German Pennsylvanian pioneer, interpreter and effective diplomat between the Pennsylvania Colony and Native Americans. He was a farmer, soldier, monk, tanner, and judge as well. He contributed as an emissary in councils between Native Americans and the colonies, especially Pennsylvania, during the French and Indian War.

Conrad Weiser was born in 1696 in the small village of Affstätt in the Duchy of Württemberg (now part of Germany). Conrad Weiser and his family were among thousands of refugees who left German lands in

1709, many of them from the Palatine area. The Weiser family eventually ended up in the Schoharie Valley of New York. At age 16, Conrad's father agreed to a chief's proposal for the youth to live with the Mohawks in the upper Schoharie Valley. During his stay in the winter

and spring of 1712-1713, Weiser learned much about the Mohawk language and the customs of the Iroquois, while enduring hardships of cold, hunger, and homesickness. Conrad Weiser returned to his own people towards the end of July 1713.

On November 22, 1720, at the age of 24, Weiser married the young German girl Anna Eve Feck (Faeg). In 1723 the couple followed the Susquehanna River south out of New York and settled their young family on a farm in Tulpehocken near present-day Reading, Pennsylvania. The couple had fourteen children, but only seven reached adulthood.

Weiser's colonial service began in 1731. The Iroquois sent Shikellamy, an Oneida chief and friend of Weiser, as an emissary to other tribes and the British. The Iroquois trusted him and considered him an adopted son of the Mohawks. Weiser impressed the Pennsylvania governor and council, which thereafter relied heavily on his services.

During the winter of 1737, Weiser attempted to broker a peace between southern tribes and the Iroquois. He had to survive high snow, freezing temperatures and starvation rations just to make the six-week journey to the Iroquois capital of Onondaga (near present-day Syracuse, NY). Impressed with his fortitude, the Iroquois named Weiser Tarachiwagon (Holder of the Heavens). Spill-over violence from a war between the Iroquois and southern tribes such as the Catawba would have drawn first Virginia, and then Pennsylvania, into conflict with the Iroquois. Therefore this peace-brokering had a profound effect on Native American/colonial relations.

Throughout his decades-long career, Weiser built on his knowledge of Native American languages and culture. He was a key player in treaty negotiations, land purchases, and the formulation of Pennsylvania's policies towards Native Americans. Because of his early experiences with the Iroquois, Weiser was inclined to be sympathetic to their interpretation of events, as opposed to the Lenape or the Shawnees. This may have exacerbated Pennsylvanian-Lenape/Shawnee relations, with bloody consequences in the French and Indian Wars.

Nevertheless, for many years, Weiser helped to keep the powerful Iroquois allied with the British as opposed to the French. This important service contributed to the continued survival of the British colonies and the eventual victory of the British over the French in the French and Indian Wars.

Between 1734 and 1741, Weiser became a follower of Conrad Beissel, a German Seventh Day Baptist preacher. For six years, he lived at the monastic settlement, [Ephrata Cloister](#), in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Conrad was also teacher and a lay minister of the Lutheran Church; he was one of the founders of Trinity Church in Reading.

Weiser died on his farm on July 13, 1760. Upon his death, one Iroquois Indian noted to a group of colonists, "We are at a great loss and sit in darkness ... as since his death we cannot so well understand one another." Indeed, shortly after Conrad Weiser's death, relations between the colonists and the Native Americans began a rapid decline.

Tuesday July 14 2026

The service for noonday can be found by going to our website trinityjuneau.org and clicking on the Noonday Prayers link.

O God, make speed to save us.

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

28 *Ad te, Domine*

1 O Lord, I call to you;

my Rock, do not be deaf to my cry; *

lest, if you do not hear me,

I become like those who go down to the Pit.

2 Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you, *

when I lift up my hands to your holy of holies.

3 Do not snatch me away with the wicked or with the evildoers, *

who speak peaceably with their neighbors,
while strife is in their hearts.

4 Repay them according to their deeds, *

and according to the wickedness of their actions.

5 According to the work of their hands repay them, *

and give them their just deserts.

6 They have no understanding of the Lord's doings,

nor of the works of his hands; *

therefore he will break them down and not
build them up.

7 Blessed is the Lord! *

for he has heard the voice of my prayer.

8 The Lord is my strength and my shield; *
my heart trusts in him, and I have been helped;

9 Therefore my heart dances for joy, *
and in my song will I praise him.

10 The Lord is the strength of his people, *
a safe refuge for his anointed.

11 Save your people and bless your inheritance; *
shepherd them and carry them for ever.

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.

Matthew 25:14-30

14 'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents,* to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." ²¹His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." ²³His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." ²⁶But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with

interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

A meditation, silent or spoken, may follow.

The Officiant then begins the Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

Lord, hear our prayer;

And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

Creator, our Father in heaven, we come to you as your children. We confess that we are weak and broken images of you. We pray for the forgiveness and healing you give in Jesus Christ. May his Spirit clean our spirits, minds, hearts, and bodies. We pray that your Holy Spirit will help us to worship in spirit and truth.

Give us the blessing of your example. Help us to follow in the Way of Jesus today and every day. Give us compassion at the center of all we do: Compassion for ourselves, as disciples still young in faith; compassion for others as members of our own family in God. Let us become examples for others as so many others have been examples to us, through your love and for the sake of your glory.

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.

O God, take from us cynicism, domination and idle chatter. Give us wholeheartedness, patience and love. Help us to see where we are wrong and not to judge others. Let your face shine on us, O Lord, as we

make our prayer to you. Rescue us from our distress and transform our poverty by the richness of your grace. We ask all this through Jesus Christ the Lord.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, 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.

Free intercessions may be offered.

Amen.

SAMSON OCCUM

WITNESS TO THE FAITH IN NEW ENGLAND, 1792

God, the Great Spirit, whose breath gives life to the world and whose voice thunders in the wind: We give you thanks for your servant Samson Occom, strong preacher and teacher among the Mohegan people; and pray that we, cherishing his example, may love learning and by love build up the communities into which you send us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

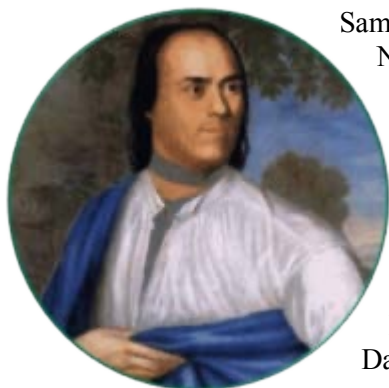
Final Collect

Let our eyes be your eyes, sharing compassion, warmth and love. Let our hands be your hands bringing healing with their touch. Let our ears be your ears listening where there is need. Let our words be your words bringing comfort joy and peace. **Amen.** (Celtic)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May God grant to the world justice, truth and peace. **Amen.**



Samson Occom, one of the first ordained Native American ministers, was born a member of the Mohegan Nation near New London, Connecticut, in 1723. By the age of sixteen, Occom had been exposed to the evangelical preaching of the Great Awakening. In 1743, he began studying theology at the school of congregational minister Eleazar Wheelock, later founder of Dartmouth College.

Occom did mission work among the Native Americans in New England and Montauk, Long Island. In 1759, he was ordained a

Presbyterian minister. In 1766, at the behest of Eleazar Wheelock, Occom went to England, where he was to raise money for Wheelock's Indian charity school. He preached extensively for over a year, traveling across England and raising over eleven thousand pounds from wealthy patrons, including King George III. When he returned from England, however, his family, supposedly under the care of Wheelock, was found destitute, and the school for which he had labored moved to Hanover, New Hampshire, where it became Dartmouth College. The funds he had raised had been put toward the education of Englishmen rather than of Native Americans.

Following a disagreement with the colonial government of Connecticut over a lack of compensation for lands they had sold, Occom and many other Mohegans moved to the Oneida territory in upstate New York. There, he and his companions founded the Brothertown Community. In his day, Occom was renowned for his eloquence and spiritual wisdom. He was the first Native American to publish his works in English. His work among the Mohegans of Connecticut, many of whom became Christians under his guidance, helped them to avoid later relocation. Occom died in New Stockbridge, New York, in 1792.

Wednesday, July 15 2026

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O God, make speed to save us.

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Psalms 119:25-48

²⁵ My soul clings to the dust;

revive me according to your word.

²⁶ When I told of my ways, you answered me;

teach me your statutes.

²⁷ Make me understand the way of your precepts,

and I will meditate on your wondrous works.

²⁸ My soul melts away for sorrow;

strengthen me according to your word.

²⁹ Put false ways far from me;

and graciously teach me your law.

³⁰ I have chosen the way of faithfulness;

I set your ordinances before me.

³¹ I cling to your decrees, O Lord;

let me not be put to shame.

³² I run the way of your commandments,

for you enlarge my understanding.

³³ Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

and I will observe it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law

and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,

for I delight in it.

³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees,

and not to selfish gain.

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;

give me life in your ways.
³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise,
 which is for those who fear you.
³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
 for your ordinances are good.
⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts;
 in your righteousness give me life.
⁴¹ Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord,
 your salvation according to your promise.
⁴² Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me,
 for I trust in your word.
⁴³ Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,
 for my hope is in your ordinances.
⁴⁴ I will keep your law continually,
 for ever and ever.
⁴⁵ I shall walk at liberty,
 for I have sought your precepts.
⁴⁶ I will also speak of your decrees before kings,
 and shall not be put to shame;
⁴⁷ I find my delight in your commandments,
 because I love them.
⁴⁸ I revere your commandments, which I love,
 and I will meditate on your statutes.

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.

Matthew 25:31-46

31 ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” ⁴⁰And

the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,* you did it to me.”

⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;

⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

A meditation, silent or spoken, may follow.

The Officiant then begins the Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

Lord, hear our prayer;

And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

Litany of Healing

God the Father,

have mercy on us.

God the Son,

have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Holy and blessed Trinity,

have mercy upon us and save us.

For those who suffer in body

Hear us, good Lord.

For the distressed in mind and spirit

Hear us, good Lord.

For those burdened by sin

Hear us, good Lord.

For all of us who fall short of your glory

Hear us and save us.

For strength to endure

Hear us, good Lord.

For hope to sustain

Hear us, good Lord.

For the grace of the Holy Spirit

Hear us, good Lord.

For all of us present .

Hear us and save us.

For those who we lift up in our prayers

Hear us and save us.

In your great mercy look with compassion on your people,
hear our prayers, pardon our sins and bring us to eternal life.

Lord, hear us and have mercy.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

(Welsh BCP)

Lord, give your blessings to the Diocese of Alaska. Watch over our churches, sustain our people, strengthen our leaders. Through the Holy Spirit, guide and guard the Diocese, keeping it always under your care and protection. Let us be a loving family, serving you in faithful devotion to the Gospel of your son, Jesus Christ.

Give your blessings to Mark our bishop. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love. Let your Holy Spirit be his companion. Let your Gospel be always in his thoughts. May your presence in his life be a light for all to see, in every good work for the building up of your people and to the Glory of your Holy Name.

Give us the blessing of your example. Help us to follow in the Way of Jesus today and every day. Give us compassion at the center of all we do: Compassion for ourselves, as disciples still young in faith; compassion for others as members of our own family in God. Let us

become examples for others as so many others have been examples to us, through your love and for the sake of your glory.

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Free intercessions may be offered.

Amen.

Great Physician of our souls and bodies, you are always at work in our lives to bring good out of evil . . .

May your sick children

experience the same surge of healing power as did the sick woman who touched the hem of your robe.

Great Spirit, who broods over the world, restore the garment of our self-respect, and remake us in your beauty.

Renew in us

the stillness of our being,

the soundness of our bodies

and the secret of our wholeness.

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

May Christ our redeemer bring us healing and wholeness. **Amen.**

Anyone desiring healing prayers is invited to come to the altar after the service.
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Thursday, July 16 2025

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O God, make speed to save us.

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

18

Part I *Diligam te, Domine.*

1 I love you, O Lord my strength, *

O Lord my stronghold, my crag, and my haven.

2 My God, my rock in whom I put my trust, *

my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge;
you are worthy of praise.

3 I will call upon the Lord, *

and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

4 The breakers of death rolled over me, *

and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.

5 The cords of hell entangled me, *

and the snares of death were set for me.

6 I called upon the Lord in my distress *

and cried out to my God for help.

7 He heard my voice from his heavenly dwelling; *

my cry of anguish came to his ears.

8 The earth reeled and rocked; *
the roots of the mountains shook;
they reeled because of his anger.

9 Smoke rose from his nostrils
and a consuming fire out of his mouth; *
hot burning coals blazed forth from him.

10 He parted the heavens and came down *
with a storm cloud under his feet.

11 He mounted on cherubim and flew; *
he swooped on the wings of the wind.

12 He wrapped darkness about him; *
he made dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.

13 From the brightness of his presence, through the clouds, *
burst hailstones and coals of fire.

14 The Lord thundered out of heaven; *
the Most High uttered his voice.

15 He loosed his arrows and scattered them; *
he hurled thunderbolts and routed them.

16 The beds of the seas were uncovered,
and the foundations of the world laid bare, *
at your battle cry, O Lord,
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.

17 He reached down from on high and grasped me; *
he drew me out of great waters.

18 He delivered me from my strong enemies
and from those who hated me; *
for they were too mighty for me.

19 They confronted me in the day of my disaster; *
but the Lord was my support.

20 He brought me out into an open place; *
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

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.

Matthew 24:1-14

24As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples
came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ²Then he asked
them, ‘You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will
be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.’

3 When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him
privately, saying, ‘Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of
your coming and of the end of the age?’ ⁴Jesus answered them, ‘Beware
that no one leads you astray. ⁵For many will come in my name, saying, “I
am the Messiah!”’* and they will lead many astray. ⁶And you will hear of
wars and rumours of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must
take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷For nation will rise against nation, and
kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines* and earthquakes in
various places: ⁸all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

9 ‘Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death,
and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰Then many
will fall away,* and they will betray one another and hate one another.
¹¹And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹²And
because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold.
¹³But anyone who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴And this good
news* of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a
testimony to all the nations; and then the end will come.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

A meditation, silent or spoken, may follow.

The Officiant then begins the Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

Lord, hear our prayer;

And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy: Give your blessings to the Diocese of Alaska. Watch over our churches, sustain our people, strengthen our leaders. Through the Holy Spirit, guide and guard the Diocese, keeping it always under your care and protection. Let us be a loving family, serving you in faithful devotion to the Gospel of your son, Jesus Christ.

Give your blessings to Mark our bishop. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love. Let your Holy Spirit be his companion. Let your Gospel be always in his thoughts. May your presence in his life be a light for all to see, in every good work for the building up of your people and to the Glory of your Holy Name.

Give us the blessing of your example. Help us to follow in the Way of Jesus today and every day. Give us compassion at the center of all we do: Compassion for ourselves, as disciples still young in faith; compassion for others as members of our own family in God. Let us become examples for others as so many others have been examples to us, through your love and for the sake of your glory.

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Free intercessions may be offered.

Amen.

“THE RIGHTEOUS GENTILES”

Lord of the Exodus, who delivers your people with a strong hand and a mighty arm: Strengthen your Church with the examples of the Righteous Gentiles of World War II to defy oppression for the rescue of the innocent; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Final Collect

May God the Father bless us;

May Christ take care of us;

May the Holy Spirit enlighten us
all the days of our life.

The Lord be our Defender
and Keeper of body and soul
both now and for ever,
to the ages of ages. (*Book of Cerne, tenth century*)

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

May God kindle in us the fire of love. **Amen.**

Although the phrase "Righteous Gentiles" has become a general term for any non-Jew who risked their life to save Jews during the Holocaust, it here appears to apply specifically to: Raoul Wallenberg [Swedish, d. 1947] Hiram Bingham IV [d. 1988, American]; Karl Lutz [d. 1975, Swiss]; C. Sujiyara [d. 1986, Japanese]; and Andre and Magda Trocme ([d. 1971, French].

Raoul Wallenberg (August 4, 1912 – July 17, 1947?) was a Swedish humanitarian who worked in Budapest, Hungary, during World War II to rescue Jews from the Holocaust. Between July and December 1944, he issued protective passports and housed Jews, saving tens of thousands of Jewish lives.



On January 17, 1945, he was arrested in Budapest by the Soviets after they wrested control of the city from the Germans, and was reported to have been executed while a prisoner at Lubyanka Prison, although this is not entirely certain.

Wallenberg has been honored numerous times. He is an honorary citizen of the United States, Canada, Hungary and Israel. Israel has also designated Wallenberg one of the Righteous among the Nations. Monuments have been dedicated to him, and streets have been named after him throughout the world.

Hiram "Harry" Bingham IV (July 17, 1903 – January 12, 1988) was an American diplomat. He served as a Vice-Consul in Marseille, France, during World War II, and



helped over 2,500 Jews to flee from France as Nazi forces advanced.

In 1939, Bingham was posted to the US Consulate in Marseille, where he, together with another vice-consul named Myles Standish, was in charge of issuing entry visas to the USA.

On June 10, 1940, Adolf Hitler's forces invaded France and the French government fell. Several influential Europeans tried to lobby the American government to issue visas so that German and Jewish refugees could freely leave France and escape persecution.

Anxious to limit immigration to the United States and to maintain good relations with the Vichy government, the State Department actively discouraged diplomats from helping refugees. However, Bingham cooperated in issuing visas and helping refugees escape France. Hiram Bingham gave about 2,000 visas, most of them to well-known personalities, speaking English, including Max Ernst, André Breton, Hannah Arendt, Marc Chagall, Lion Feuchtwanger and Nobel prize winner Otto Meyerhof.

Carl Lutz (b. Walzenhausen, 30 March 1895; d. Berne, 12 February 1975) was the Swiss Vice-Consul in Budapest, Hungary from 1942 until the end of World War II. He helped save the lives of tens of thousands of Jews from deportation to Nazi Extermination camps during the Holocaust.

Lutz immigrated at the age of 18 to the United States, where he was to remain for more than 20 years.

Lutz's sojourn in the United States ended with his assignment as vice-consul to the Swiss Consulate

General in Jaffa, in what was then Palestine.

Appointed in 1942 as Swiss vice-consul in Budapest, Hungary, Lutz soon began cooperating with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, issuing Swiss safe-conduct documents enabling Jewish children to emigrate.

Once the Nazis took over Budapest in 1944 and began deporting Jews to the death camps, Lutz negotiated a special deal with the Hungarian government and the Nazis: he had permission to issue protective letters to 8,000 Hungarian Jews for emigration to Palestine. Lutz then deliberately misinterpreted his permission for 8,000 as applying to



families rather than individuals, and proceeded to issue tens of thousands of additional protective letters, all of them bearing a number between one and 8,000. He also set up some 76 safe houses around Budapest, declaring them annexes of the Swiss legation. Among the safe houses was the now well-known "Glass House" (Üvegház) at Vadász Street 29. About 3,000 Jews found refuge at the Glass House and in a neighboring building.

Chiune Sugihara (1 January 1900 – 31 July 1986) was a Japanese diplomat, serving as Vice Consul for the Japanese Empire in Lithuania. During World War II, he helped several thousand Jews leave the country by issuing transit visas to Jewish refugees so that they could travel to Japan. Most of the Jews who escaped were refugees from German-occupied Poland or residents of Lithuania. Sugihara wrote travel visas that facilitated the escape of more than 6,000 Jewish refugees to Japanese territory, risking his career and his family's life.



When asked why he did it, he responded:

“You want to know about my motivation, don't you? Well. It is the kind of sentiments anyone would have when he actually sees refugees face to face, begging with tears in their eyes. He just cannot help but sympathize with them. Among the refugees were the elderly and women. They were so desperate that they went so far as to kiss my shoes, Yes, I actually witnessed such scenes with my own eyes. Also, I felt at that time, that the Japanese government did not have any uniform opinion in Tokyo. Some Japanese military leaders were just scared because of the pressure from the Nazis; while other officials in the Home Ministry were simply ambivalent.

People in Tokyo were not united. I felt it silly to deal with them. So, I made up my mind not to wait for their reply. I knew that somebody would surely complain about me in the future. But, I myself thought this would be the right thing to do. There is nothing wrong in saving many people's lives The spirit of humanity, philanthropy ... neighborly friendship ... with this spirit, I ventured to do what I did, confronting this

most difficult situation ---and because of this reason, I went ahead with redoubled courage. ”

When asked why he risked his career to save other people, he quoted an old samurai saying: "Even a hunter cannot kill a bird which flies to him for refuge."

André Trocmé (April 7, 1901 – June 5, 1971) and his wife **Magda** (née Grilli di Cortona, November 2, 1901, Florence, Italy - Oct. 10, 1996) are a couple of French Righteous Among the Nations. For 15 years, André served as a pastor in the town of Le Chambon-sur-Lignon on the Plateau Vivarais-Lignon in South-Central France. He had been sent to this rather remote parish because of his pacifist positions which were not well received by the French Protestant Church. In his preaching he spoke out against discrimination as the Nazis were gaining power in neighboring Germany and urged his Protestant Huguenot congregation to hide Jewish refugees from the Holocaust of the Second World War.



In 1938, André Trocmé and Reverend Edouard Theis founded the Collège Lycée International Cévenol in Le Chambon-sur-Lignon, France. Its initial purpose was to prepare local country youngsters to enter the university. When the refugees arrived, it also took in many Jewish young people wishing to continue their secondary education.

When France fell to Nazi Germany, the mission to resist the Nazis became increasingly important. Following the establishment of the Vichy France regime during the occupation, Trocmé and his church members helped their town develop ways of resisting the dominant evil they faced. Together they established first one, and then a number of "safe houses" where Jewish and other refugees seeking to escape the Nazis could hide. Many refugees were helped to escape to Switzerland following an underground railroad network. Between 1940 and 1944 when World War II ended in Europe, it is estimated that about 3500 Jewish refugees including many children were saved by the small village of Le Chambon and the communities on the surrounding plateau because the people

refused to give in to what they considered to be the illegitimate legal, military, and police power of the Nazis.

These faithful servants, together with more than 23,000 others verified to date, are honored at Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Memorial overlooking Jerusalem, and celebrated there as “the righteous among the nations.”

Friday, July 17 2026

The service for noonday can be found by going to our website trinityjuneau.org and clicking on the Noonday Prayers link.

O God, make speed to save us.

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;

let me never be put to shame; *

deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; *

make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,

for you are my crag and my stronghold; *

for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *

for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *

for you have redeemed me,

O Lord, O God of truth.

6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols, *

and I put my trust in the Lord.

7 I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy; *

for you have seen my affliction;

you know my distress.

8 You have not shut me up in the power of the enemy; *

you have set my feet in an open place.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *

my eye is consumed with sorrow,

and also my throat and my belly.

10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction,
and my bones are consumed.

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and
even to my neighbors,
a dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
when they see me in the street they avoid me.

12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me;
they plot to take my life.

14 But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, "You are my God.

15 My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

17 Lord, let me not be ashamed for having called upon you; *
rather, let the wicked be put to shame;
let them be silent in the grave.

18 Let the lying lips be silenced which speak against
the righteous, *
haughtily, disdainfully, and with contempt.

19 How great is your goodness, O Lord!
which you have laid up for those who fear you; *
which you have done in the sight of all
for those who put their trust in you.

20 You hide them in the covert of your presence from those
who slander them; *
you keep them in your shelter from the strife of tongues.

21 Blessed be the Lord! *
for he has shown me the wonders of his love in a

besieged city.

22 Yet I said in my alarm,
"I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes." *
Nevertheless, you heard the sound of my entreaty
when I cried out to you.

23 Love the Lord, all you who worship him; *
the Lord protects the faithful,
but repays to the full those who act haughtily.

24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, *
all you who wait for the Lord.

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

Matthew 26:17-25

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' ¹⁸He said, 'Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples." ' ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' ²³He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

A meditation, silent or spoken, may follow.

The Officiant then begins the Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Lord, hear our prayer;

And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy: Give your blessings to the Diocese of Alaska. Watch over our churches, sustain our people, strengthen our leaders. Through the Holy Spirit, guide and guard the Diocese, keeping it always under your care and protection. Let us be a loving family, serving you in faithful devotion to the Gospel of your son, Jesus Christ.

Give your blessings to Mark our bishop.

Give him a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love. Let your Holy Spirit be his companion. Let your Gospel be always in his thoughts. May your presence in his life be a light for all to see, in every good work for the building up of your people and to the Glory of your Holy Name.

Give us the blessing of your example. Help us to follow in the Way of Jesus today and every day. Give us compassion at the center of all we do: Compassion for ourselves, as disciples still young in faith; compassion for others as members of our own family in God. Let us become examples for others as so many others have been examples to us, through your love and for the sake of your glory.

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Free intercessions may be offered.

AMEN.

WILLIAM WHITE

BISHOP OF PENNSYLVANIA (17 JULY 1836)

O Lord, who in a time of turmoil and confusion raised up your servant William White to lead your Church into ways of stability and peace; Hear our prayer, and give us wise and faithful leaders, that, through their ministry, your people may be blessed and your will be done; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Collect

May God's love be the love that surrounds us today.

May God's peace be the peace that we share on our way.

May God's grace be the grace that our actions display.

May God's truth be the truth in the words that we say. Amen *Celtic*

The service concludes as follows

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May Christ our Savior give us peace. **Amen.**



William White was born in Philadelphia on March 24th, 1747, and was educated at the college of that city, graduating in 1765. In 1770 he went to England, where he was ordained as a deacon on December 23rd, and as a priest on April 25th, 1772.

Upon his return home, he became assistant minister of Christ and St. Peter's from 1772–1779, and rector from that year until his death on July 17th, 1836. He also served as chaplain

of the Continental Congress from 1777 to 1789, and then of the United States Senate until 1800. Chosen unanimously as first Bishop of Pennsylvania in 1786, he went to England again, with Samuel Provoost, Bishop-elect of New York; and the two men were consecrated in Lambeth Chapel on Septuagesima Sunday, February 4th, 1787, by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishops of Bath and Wells and of Peterborough.

Bishop White was the chief architect of the Constitution of the American Episcopal Church and the overseer of its life during the first generation of its history. He was the Presiding Bishop at its organizing General Convention in 1789, and again from 1795 until his death in Philadelphia on July 17th, 1836.

He was a theologian of significant ability, and among his protégés, in whose formation he had a large hand, were many leaders of a new generation such as John Henry Hobart, Jackson Kemper, and William Augustus Muhlenberg. White's gifts of statesmanship and reconciling moderation steered the American Church through the first decades of its independent life.

Saturday July 18 2026

O God, make speed to save us.

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 for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you,
and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to
do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

32 *Beati quorum*

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!

2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile!

3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.

4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.

6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in
time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you
should go; *

I will guide you with my eye.

10 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; *
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; *
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

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.

Matthew 26:26-35

26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' ²⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is my blood of the ^{*}covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.'

30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written,

"I will strike the shepherd,

and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.' ³³Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' ³⁴Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' ³⁵Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

A meditation, silent or spoken, may follow.

The Officiant then begins the Prayers

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

Lord, hear our prayer;

And let our cry come to you.

Let us pray.

O God of grace and mercy: Give your blessings to the Diocese of Alaska. Watch over our churches, sustain our people, strengthen our leaders. Through the Holy Spirit, guide and guard the Diocese, keeping it always under your care and protection. Let us be a loving family, serving you in faithful devotion to the Gospel of your son, Jesus Christ.

Give your blessings to Mark our bishop. Give him a spirit of courage and right judgement, a spirit of knowledge and love. Let your Holy Spirit be his companion. Let your Gospel be always in his thoughts. May your presence in his life be a light for all to see, in every good work for the building up of your people and to the Glory of your Holy Name.

Give us the blessing of your example. Help us to follow in the Way of Jesus today and every day. Give us compassion at the center of all we do: Compassion for ourselves, as disciples still young in faith; compassion for others as members of our own family in God. Let us become examples for others as so many others have been examples to us, through your love and for the sake of your glory.

Almighty God, whose loving hand *hath* given us all that we possess: Grant us grace that we may honor *thee* with our substance, and, remembering the account which we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of *thy* bounty.

Free intercessions may be offered.

Amen.

BARTOLOME DE LAS CASAS

MISSIONARY PRIEST, DEFENDER OF THE OPPRESSED, 1566

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the witness of Bartolomé de las Casas, whose deep love for your people caused him to refuse absolution to those who would not free their Indian slaves. Help us, inspired by his example, to work and pray for the freeing of all enslaved people of our world, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Final Collect

May we never walk in solitude or fear, but the fellowship of the Spirit warm our hearts, the love of the Saviour bring us joy and the shelter of the Father's arms forever keep us safe. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith. **Amen.**



Bartolome de las Casas, “The Apostle of the Indies,” was a Dominican known for his defense of the rights and dignity of indigenous peoples in the Americas.

Las Casas was born in Seville, Spain, in 1484. He studied both theology and law at the University of Salamanca. As a lawyer, las Casas participated in an

expedition in Hispaniola in 1502. As a reward, he was given an *encomienda*, a royal land grant populated with native peoples of the West Indies. Disillusioned by the inhumanity of the colonial system, he began to seek ways to reform it. Las Casas was ordained priest in 1507 in Rome but waited to celebrate his first mass in 1510 at Santo Domingo.

In December of 1511, the Dominican Antonio de Montesinos preached a fiery sermon implicating the colonists in the genocide of the Native peoples. Las Casas gave up his rights to the *encomienda* and no longer possessed slaves; in his own preaching he urged other Spanish colonists to do likewise. Continuing his demand for change, he returned to Spain in 1515 to plead for justice from the Spanish government. The powerful archbishop of Toledo, who named him “Protector of the Indies,” took up his cause.

His passionate defense of the Natives before the Spanish Parliament persuaded the emperor, Charles V, to accept las Casas’s project of founding “towns of free Indians,” communities of both Spaniards and Native Americans who would jointly create a new civilization in the Americas; but the efforts were met with failure. After this, las Casas joined the Dominican order in 1523. Las Casas’s work seemed to be crowned with success in 1542 when Charles V signed the “New Laws,” which required Spanish colonists to free Indians after a single generation. However, the laws were generally ignored.

Las Casas was made the first bishop of Chiapas, Mexico, in 1544, where he tried to implement the New Laws. In 1545, he decreed in a pastoral letter that all slave owners would be denied absolution unless they freed their slaves and returned their property to them. He renounced his bishopric after the repeal of the New Laws and returned to Spain in 1547. In 1550, he engaged in a public debate against the theologian Juan Gines de Seulvada who argued that war against the Native Americans and their enslavement was justified because of their inferiority. Las Casas argued for the full humanity of the Native peoples and advocated for peaceful evangelism. In 1552, he wrote his most famous work, *A Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies*, a sensationalist expose of the oppression inflicted upon the peoples of the West Indies.

Las Casas lived his convictions with such zeal that he often seemed intolerant of others, but he is remembered as a tireless advocate for justice for those oppressed by colonialism and an early proponent of universal human rights. Las Casas died in Madrid on July 18, 1566.