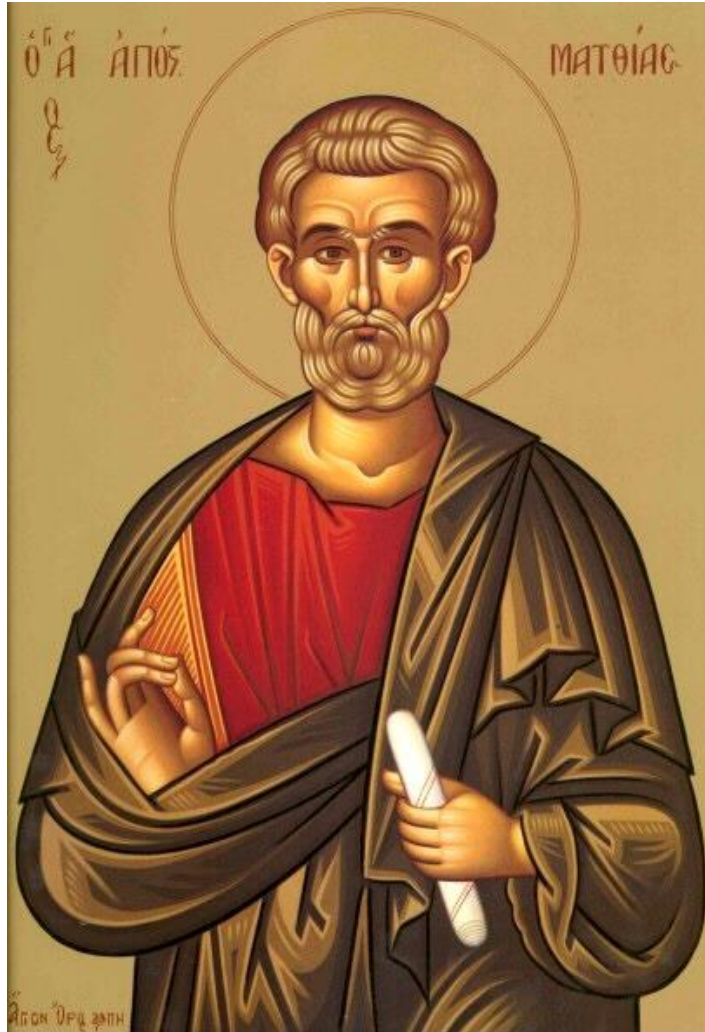


Welcoming of Bishop Prince Singh and Evensong



on the Feast of St. Matthias the Apostle
Thursday, February 24, 2022
St. John's Episcopal Church
Midland, Michigan

Welcome of Bishop Prince Singh

The representatives of the Standing Committees address the bishop and the congregation.

Bishop Singh, we gather this evening in person and online to welcome you to the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan to serve as our Bishop Provisional for the next three to five years.

The representatives ask the bishop

Bishop, during your service with us, will you represent Christ and his Church, as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of our dioceses; guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; proclaim the Word of God; act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and ordain others to continue Christ's ministry?

Bishop Singh

I will, with God's help.

The representatives ask the congregation

Will you here and at home who witness this new beginning support and uphold Bishop Singh in his ministry with us?

All

I will, with God's help.

The representatives display the Bishop's new chasuble, stole, and mitre.

On behalf of your colleague Bishops of African descent, we display their gifts to you of new vestments, chasuble, stole, and mitre. Their gift symbolizes vestments lost in a fire transforming into a new beginning for ministry with our dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.

The representatives present a tippet, a preaching stole, with the shields of both Dioceses affixed

Bishop, receive this stole and lead us in proclaiming the Word of God.

The representatives present the pastoral staff saying

On behalf of the people and clergy of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, we give you this pastoral staff as a symbol of your leadership among us.

The representatives present the Constitutions and Canons of Eastern and Western Michigan

Bishop, accept these Canons and lead us in taking council for the well-being of our Dioceses.

EVENSONG

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

All stand

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

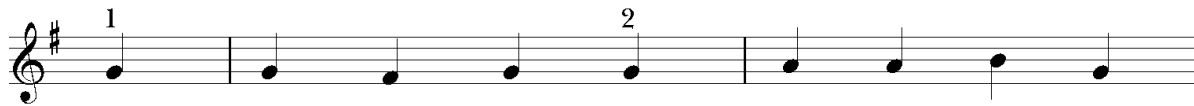
People Thanks be to God.

The Officiant says

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

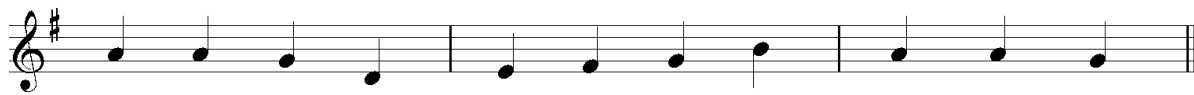
O GRACIOUS LIGHT—H25



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

THE PSALM APPOINTED: Psalm 15

- 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.

At the end of the Psalm 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 for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The people sit.

FIRST READING: Philippians 3:13-21

This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

CANTICLE 15

S 242 The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
 the Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
 in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
 and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
 to Abraham and his children 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.

SECOND READING: John 15:1, 6-16

Jesus said, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

CANTICLE 17

S 254 The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.
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.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant and People together, all standing.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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 forever. Amen.

A LITANY FOR THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Holy God, in whom all things in heaven and earth have their being,

Have mercy on us.

Jesus the Christ, through whom the world is reconciled to the Father,

Have mercy on us.

Holy Spirit, whose glory fills the world and searches the depths of God,

Have mercy on us.

Blessed Trinity, source of both unity and diversity,

Have mercy on us.

From blind hearts and petty spirits, that refuse to see the need of all humankind for your love,

Savior, deliver us.

From pride, self-sufficiency and the unwillingness to admit our own need of your compassion,

Savior, deliver us.

From discouragement in the face of pain and disappointment, and from lack of persistence and thoroughness,

Savior, deliver us.

From ignorance, apathy, and complacency that prevent us from spreading the Gospel,

Savior, deliver us.

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and place.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our eyes, that we may see your glory in all creation.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our ears, that we may hear from every mouth the hunger for hope and stories of refreshment.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our lips, that we may tell in every tongue and dialect the wonderful works of God.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hearts, that we may discern the mission to which you call us.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our feet, that we may take your Good News into our neighborhoods, communities, and all parts of the world.

Hear us, O Christ.

Touch our hands, that we may each accomplish the work you give us to do.

Hear us, O Christ.

Strengthen and encourage all who minister in your name in lonely, dangerous and unresponsive places.

Hear us, O Christ.

Open the hearts and hands of many to support your Church in this and every place.

Hear us, O Christ.

The Officiant then says

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A COLLECT FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MATTHIAS

Almighty God, who in the place of Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve: Grant that your Church, being delivered from false apostles, may always be guided and governed by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A COLLECT FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Ever present God, you called us to be in relationship with one another and promised to dwell wherever two or three are gathered. In our community, we are many different people; we come from many different places, have many different cultures. Open our hearts that we may be bold in finding the riches of inclusion and the treasures of diversity among us. We pray in faith. *Amen.*

A COLLECT FOR PEACE

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR MISSION

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

IN YOUR MERCY, LORD, YOU CALLED ME-H706

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with three lines of text. The first system includes a three-part vocal setting. The second system includes a three-part vocal setting. The third system includes a three-part vocal setting. The score concludes with a double bar line and a final chord in the bass clef.

1 In your mer - cy, Lord, you called me, taught my
2 Lord, I did not free - ly choose you till by
3 Now my heart sets none a - bove you, for your

sin - filled heart and mind, else this world had
grace you set me free; for my heart would
grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing well, that

still en - thrall'd me, and to glo - ry kept me blind.
still re - fuse you had your love not cho - sen me.
if I love you, you, O Lord, have loved me first.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

BISHOP'S BLESSING

CONCLUDING SENTENCE (BCP p. 126)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all
evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

The *Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan* offer a special note of gratitude and thanks for hosting this evening's service to the congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church, The Rev. Jim Harrison, Priest-in-Charge.

Participants in this evening's service

Officiant	The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh
EDEM Standing Committee Vice-President	Barbara Ilkka, St. John's, Saginaw
EDWM Standing Committee President	The Rev. Dr. Randall R. Warren, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo
Accompanist	Mair Alsgaard, St. John's, Midland
Cantor	Draven Forbes, St. John's, Midland
Reader	Alli Thompson, St. John's, Midland
Reader	Jennifer Dingman, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant
Litanist	The Rev. Pam Lenartowicz, St. Andrew, Gaylord
Broadcast technologist	Russell Shellberg, St. John's Midland
Liturgy planning	The Rev. Canon Anne Hallmark, Diocese of Western MI The Rev. Pam Lenartowicz, St. Andrew, Gaylord