



# St. Andrew's

Episcopal Church

## Morning Prayer

Wednesday, July 31st

### Psalm 72

1 Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**2 May he judge your people with righteousness and your poor with justice.**

3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**4 May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

5 May he live while the sun endures and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**8 May he have dominion from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.**

9 May his foes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust.

**10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

**12 For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**

13 He has pity on the weak and the needy and saves the lives of the needy.

**14 From oppression and violence he redeems their life, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

15 Long may he live! May gold of Sheba be given to him. May prayer be made for him continually and blessings invoked for him all day long.

**16 May there be abundance of grain in the land; may it wave on the tops of the mountains; may its fruit be like Lebanon; and may people blossom in the cities like the grass of the field.**

17 May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun. May all nations be blessed in him; may they pronounce him happy.

**18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**

19 Blessed be his glorious name forever; may his glory fill the whole earth. Amen and Amen.

**20 The prayers of David son of Jesse are ended.**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**  
(Acts 1:1-14)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after

giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with

certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew ( Matthew 27:45-54)**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**