

Adult Education – St. Luke’s Church – Sedona, AZ – Class 12
Understanding & Using the Prayer Book – The Daily Offices, The Litany & The Penitential Order
May 5, 2019

(Note: for ease of accessing the web sites contained in this handout, download your own PDF copy here: <http://www.episcopalnet.org/DBS/Sedona/AdultEducation2019.html> and click on the live links in that copy. Questions or comments? Email me at dmc89az@gmail.com.) Follow St. Luke’s on Facebook!

Opening Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer in Aramaic: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDmFqInYrzA>. (3:57) Beautiful; in the Lord’s “original” words; but, what did he say? Underscores the importance of prayer in the vernacular.

I. Follow-up from Last Week.

A. Questions and Corrections from Last Week.

1. Temple sacrifice took place on the Brazen Altar, not in the Holy of Holies.
2. What language was the Didache written in? Koine Greek.
3. Who wrote the Apostles’ Creed and when? Its origin is unknown. Its roots pre-date the Nicene Creed, but the first known use of the term “Apostles’ Creed” occurred in the latter half of the fourth century.

B. Homework Assignment – answers are on the back page of this handout.

II. Morning Prayer (Matins) and Evening Prayer (Evensong) – a/k/a The Daily Offices, The Choir Offices, or The Divine Office.

A. From Eight Offices to Two – in English for the first time in the 1549 Prayer Book.

1. The Daily Offices are God-centered, rather than man-centered. The purposes are to:
 - a. Praise God;
 - b. Learn from Him; and
 - c. Be strengthened by Him.
 - d. The Daily Offices are “the ordained form within which the whole Church performs from hour to hour, by night and by day, that unceasing praise of God which is the chief purpose of her existence...its prevailing note is and must be adoration not edification.” Evelyn Underhill (1875-1941), Anglo-Catholic writer noted for her works on Christian Mysticism.
2. They are not “man-made” *per se*; nearly every line is either a direct quotation from Scripture or a paraphrase.
3. Regular recitation of the Daily Offices is intended to mold and influence our daily lives.
4. Made mandatory for clergy in the 1662 Prayer Book; optional but encouraged for Laity.
5. It helps us to comply with Paul’s instruction to “pray without ceasing.” (I Thess. 5:17)

B. Preparation.

1. The Lectionary (*see, e.g.*, pp. xxii-xxiii – Second Sunday after Easter).
2. The Tables – Feasts, Fasts and Precedence (pp. l-li).
3. The Kalendar (a spelling used particularly for ecclesiastical calendars).
 - a. Commercially available.
 - b. Online: www.episcopalnet.org (click on Ordo Kalendar).
4. Be familiar with the rubrics (*from* Latin for “red”); compliance with the rubrics is mandatory, and they can be changed only by the controlling ecclesiastical process in the jurisdiction.

C. Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer are nearly identical in structure.

1. Key Components.
 - a. Penitence.
 - b. Praise and Thanksgiving.
 - c. Revelation and Instruction in God’s Word.
 - d. Affirmation of Faith.
 - e. Prayers for What is Both Desired and Essential.

- f. Thanksgiving.
 2. **Opening Sentence(s)** – Minister. These set the theme and the tone of the whole service.
 3. **Exhortation (or Bidding)** – Minister. The Exhortation is an invitation to confession and a reminder of what our worship should include (*see*, C.1 above).
 4. **General Confession** – Corporate.
 5. **Absolution** – only by a Priest or a Bishop, not a lay person or a Deacon.
 6. **Lord’s Prayer** – Corporate. The perfect model of prayer.
 7. **Versicles** – a series of sentences said or sung alternately by Minister and people. (“O Lord, open thou our lips...”)
 8. **Gloria Patri** – a “minor doxology” in praise of God’s Triune Being. Said alternately.
 9. **Versicles** – “Praise ye the Lord...” Alternately.
 10. **Invitatory Antiphons (Morning Prayer only)** – Minister or Corporate. An antiphon is a short verse or anthem sung responsively in some churches before and after the Psalms and Canticles. Here, they are optional and are appointed for certain seasons or days.
 11. **Venite (Morning Prayer only)** – Corporate, said or sung. A “jubilant summons to the whole world of nature and man to worship its Creator, Provider and Judge, with joy and with thanksgiving, in beauty and in awe.” (*Shepherd*, p. 9)
 12. **Psalms and Gloria Patri** – Corporate: read together, antiphonally (alternating verses), or responsively (using the asterisk as a divider). The *Gloria Patri* “Christianizes the Psalms by interpreting them – doctrinally, morally, and spiritually – in the light of our Lord’s life and teaching.” (Cox, p. 44)
 13. **First Lesson** – Minister. Old Testament or Apocrypha.
 14. **Canticle and Gloria Patri** – Corporate, sung or said. A canticle is a sacred song or hymn usually taken from Scripture, appointed to be said or sung in Morning or Evening Prayer. Usually the *Te Deum* (without the *Gloria Patri*) for Morning Prayer and the *Magnificat* for Evening Prayer.
 15. **Second Lesson** – Minister. New Testament.
 16. **Canticle and Gloria Patri** – Corporate, sung or said. Usually *Benedictus* for Morning Prayer and *Nunc Dimittis* for Evening Prayer.
 17. **Creed** – Corporate. Usually the Apostles’ Creed.
 18. **Salutation and Versicles** – Alternately. “The Lord be with you...” (Evening Prayer: “It will be noticed how aptly each pair of versicles serves as a summary of one of the prayers that follow, so that if the prayers should be omitted, this ‘little litany’ would still cover the same range of petition and intercession.” *Shepherd*, p. 31.)
 19. **Collect(s) for the Day** – Minister. Usually the Collect appointed for the previous Sunday’s Mass. Additional Collects might be appointed as well: *e.g.*, Advent I; Saints’ days.
 20. **Morning (or Evening) Collects** – Minister. These are fixed and mandatory.
 21. **Additional Prayers** – Minister. Optional. May proceed to the Grace.
 22. **The Grace** – Minister. A prayer, rather than a benediction.
- D. How to Say Morning and Evening Prayer.
1. Corporate Worship – “Wherever two or three are gathered together in my name...”
 2. Private Worship – recommend reciting aloud if possible.
 - a. Prayer Book and Bible; or
 - b. Online.
 - (1) The Sedona Rite – prepared “in accordance with the rubrics of the 1928 *Book of Common Prayer*. Various prayers have been consolidated into this Rite and all are found in the BCP. The "Prayer for All Conditions of Mankind" is a compilation of the Office's prayers, with additions coming from the "Family Prayer" and "Prayers" sections of the BCP. The parts that are bracketed and italicized indicate how the office can be shortened, as necessary. We suggest the shortened version

for those who are new to the recitation of the office, and recommend the lengthening of the prayers as you are able to do so.”

Morning Prayer – <http://www.episcopalnet.org/1928bcp/FBSMP.html>.

Evening Prayer – <http://www.episcopalnet.org/1928bcp/FBSEP.html>.

- (2) The Cradle of Prayer – <https://cradleofprayer.org/> – click on “This Week’s Prayers.” Read by a priest; introductory hymn and canticles are sung by a cantor; Friday Morning Prayer includes the Litany.

3. The rubrics provide various options for shortening Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer if desired. *See, e.g.*, the third rubric on p. 17.

E. Family Prayer.

1. Morning Prayer (pp. 587-589).
2. Evening Prayer (pp. 589-92).
3. Composed by Edmund Gibson, then rector of Lambeth and later Bishop of London, in 1705.
4. Contain the same essential elements of regular MP and EP: penitence, supplication and thanksgiving.
5. Particularly eloquent and beautiful style.
6. The Shorter Forms.
 - a. Morning Prayer (p. 592).
 - b. Evening Prayer (p. 593).
 - c. If Scripture is read, it would be appropriate to use one of the appointed readings from the Lectionary, or perhaps the Epistle or the Gospel of the Day.
7. Additional Prayers (pp. 594-600).
 - a. Supplemental to the Prayers and Thanksgivings at pp. 35-53.
 - b. May be used as stand-alone prayers.

F. Prayers and Thanksgivings (pp. 35-53)

1. When used as part of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, follow the rubric on p. 35.
2. The Bidding Prayer (pp. 47-48) is an excellent reminder of whom and what to pray for.
3. The Collects at pp. 49-50 were included in the 1549 Prayer Book by Cranmer.
4. Of course, any of these Prayers and Thanksgivings may be said at any time as stand-alone prayers.

III. The Litany (pp. 54-59).

- A. The first important part of the Prayer Book to appear in English.
- B. Often said in conjunction with Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer or the Mass, but also an excellent stand-alone devotion.
- C. Very ancient.
- D. This is the one Office from the 1552 Prayer Book that Queen Mary permitted to be used during her reign.

IV. A Penitential Office (pp. 60-63).

- A. Despite the sub-title, it is not just for Ash Wednesday. Per the rubric on p. 60, it may be read as part of the Litany, or with Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, or as a separate Office.
- B. Psalm 51 is widely regarded as King David’s heart-rending lament, expressing deep sorrow and pleading for mercy following his “great sin.” (II Samuel 11 and 12:1-23)
- C. Notice that it expresses assurance in God’s mercy and hope for restoration.

Closing Prayer: O God, who for our redemption didst give thine only-begotten Son to the death of the Cross, and by his glorious resurrection hast delivered us from the power of our enemy; Grant us so to die daily from sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through the same thy Son Christ our Lord. **Amen.** (BCP, p. 165; Easter Day, “Second” Collect.)

Next Week

- Collects, Epistles and Gospels (BCP pp. 90-269)
- The Psalter (BCP pp. 345-525)

Sources

Chadwick, H. *The Early Church*. NY: Dorset Press, 1967.

Cummings, B. *The Book of Common Prayer: The Texts of 1549, 1559, and 1662*. London: Oxford Univ., 2011.

Cox, W. *The Heart of the Prayer Book*. Richmond, VA: Dietz Press 1945.

Crum, R. *A Dictionary of the Episcopal Church*. Philadelphia, PA: Trefoil Publishing Society, 1960.

Jacobs, A. *The Book of Common Prayer: A Biography*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Univ., 2013.

Shepherd, M. *The American Prayer Book Commentary*. NY: Oxford Univ., 1950.

Answers to Last Week's Homework Questions

The Preface (v-vi)

- Where is the phrase “liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free” found in the Bible?
 - Galatians 5:1: “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” The context is Paul’s urging of the Galatians not to succumb to the Judaizers and to those who preached that Gentile Christians must be circumcised.
- What were/are the four main aims of the Prayer Book?
 - The preservation of peace and unity in the Church
 - The procuring of reverence
 - The exciting of piety and devotion in the worship of God
 - The cutting off of cavil or quarrel against the Church’s Liturgy
- Did the American revisers intend any significant departure from the 1662 Prayer Book?
 - No.

Concerning the Service (vii-viii)

- What are the regular Services of the Church?
 - The Order for Holy Communion
 - The Order for Morning Prayer
 - The Order for Evening Prayer
 - The Litany
- What is a “Minister”?
 - As used in the Prayer Book rubrics, a Minister may be either a lay person or a member of the clergy. A lay person (or a Deacon) may not perform any function, such as Absolution, which calls specifically for either a Priest or a Bishop.
- Who/what is an “Ordinary”?
 - A Bishop who has jurisdiction *ex-officio* (*i.e.*, by virtue of his office) in all ecclesiastical matters in his Diocese. Other types of Bishops include Suffragan, Coadjutor and Missionary.
 - Notice that only the Ordinary can authorize departures from the Prayer Book in narrowly-defined circumstances. BCP, p. vii.
- What is an Octave?
 - The seventh day after a great Festival and the intervening days. The Prayer Book specifies Octaves for Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension, Whitsunday and All-Saints Day.

Where to Buy

- Amazon.com – search for “1928 Book of Common Prayer”
- Anglican Parishes Association - <https://anglican-parishes-association.myshopify.com/collections/prayer-books>
- Anglican Province in America - <https://anglicanprovince.org/shop/>

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