

## Evening Prayer

### Thursday after the Third Sunday of Easter

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

*Psalm 16:7,8*

**BCP p. 117**

*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.  
*People* O Lord, make haste to help us.

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 Gracious Light

O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

### Psalm 37: Part II

**BCP p. 634**

The LORD cares for the lives of the godly, \*  
and their inheritance shall last for ever.  
They shall not be ashamed in bad times, \*  
and in days of famine they shall have enough.  
As for the wicked, they shall perish, \*  
and the enemies of the LORD, like the glory of the meadows, shall vanish;  
they shall vanish like smoke.  
The wicked borrow and do not repay, \*  
but the righteous are generous in giving.

Those who are blessed by God shall possess the land, \*  
but those who are cursed by him shall be destroyed.  
Our steps are directed by the LORD; \*  
he strengthens those in whose way he delights.  
If they stumble, they shall not fall headlong, \*  
for the LORD holds them by the hand.  
I have been young and now I am old, \*  
but never have I seen the righteous forsaken,  
or their children begging bread.  
The righteous are always generous in their lending, \*  
and their children shall be a blessing.  
Turn from evil, and do good, \*  
and dwell in the land for ever.  
For the LORD loves justice; \*  
he does not forsake his faithful ones.  
They shall be kept safe for ever, \*  
but the offspring of the wicked shall be destroyed.  
The righteous shall possess the land \*  
and dwell in it for ever.  
The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, \*  
and their tongue speaks what is right.  
The law of their God is in their heart, \*  
and their footsteps shall not falter.  
The wicked spy on the righteous \*  
and seek occasion to kill them.  
The LORD will not abandon them to their hand, \*  
nor let them be found guilty when brought to trial.  
Wait upon the LORD and keep his way; \*  
he will raise you up to possess the land,  
and when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.  
I have seen the wicked in their arrogance, \*  
flourishing like a tree in full leaf.  
I went by, and behold, they were not there; \*  
I searched for them, but they could not be found.  
Mark those who are honest;  
observe the upright; \*  
for there is a future for the peaceable.  
Transgressors shall be destroyed, one and all; \*  
the future of the wicked is cut off.  
But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; \*  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.  
The LORD will help them and rescue them; \*  
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because they seek refuge in him.  
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 First Lesson**

**Col. 1:24-2:7**

A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians.

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

For I want you to know how much I am struggling for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me face to face. I want their hearts to be encouraged and united in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ himself, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

I am saying this so that no one may deceive you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, and I rejoice to see your morale and the firmness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### **15. The Song of Mary**

***Luke 1:46-55***

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.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

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**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**

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*      And also with you.  
*Officiant*      Let us pray.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **Suffrages B**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.  
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,  
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,  
We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,  
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,  
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,  
We entreat you, O Lord.

### **The Collect of the Day**

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. 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.

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.*

**A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

**BCP p. 102**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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*