

## Evening Prayer

Wednesday after the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

### Invitatory and Psalter

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 119: Ayin

BCP p. 773

I have done what is just and right; \*

do not deliver me to my oppressors.

Be surety for your servant's good; \*

let not the proud oppress me.

My eyes have failed from watching for your salvation \*

and for your righteous promise.

Deal with your servant according to your loving-kindness \*

and teach me your statutes.

I am your servant; grant me understanding, \*

that I may know your decrees.

It is time for you to act, O LORD, \*

for they have broken your law.

Truly, I love your commandments \*

more than gold and precious stones.

I hold all your commandments to be right for me; \*

all paths of falsehood I abhor.

**Psalm 119: Pe****BCP p. 774**

Your decrees are wonderful; \*  
therefore I obey them with all my heart.  
When your word goes forth it gives light; \*  
it gives understanding to the simple.  
I open my mouth and pant; \*  
I long for your commandments.  
Turn to me in mercy, \*  
as you always do to those who love your Name.  
Steady my footsteps in your word; \*  
let no iniquity have dominion over me.  
Rescue me from those who oppress me, \*  
and I will keep your commandments.  
Let your countenance shine upon your servant \*  
and teach me your statutes.  
My eyes shed streams of tears, \*  
because people do not keep your law.

**Psalm 119: Sadhe****BCP p. 774**

You are righteous, O LORD, \*  
and upright are your judgments.  
You have issued your decrees \*  
with justice and in perfect faithfulness.  
My indignation has consumed me, \*  
because my enemies forget your words.  
Your word has been tested to the uttermost, \*  
and your servant holds it dear.  
I am small and of little account, \*  
yet I do not forget your commandments.  
Your justice is an everlasting justice \*  
and your law is the truth.  
Trouble and distress have come upon me, \*  
yet your commandments are my delight.  
The righteousness of your decrees is everlasting; \*  
grant me understanding, that I may live.  
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****2 Samuel 14:21-33**

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

Then the king said to Joab, "Very well, I grant this; go, bring back the young man Absalom."  
Joab prostrated himself with his face to the ground and did obeisance, and blessed the king;

and Joab said, "Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord the king, in that the king has granted the request of his servant." So Joab set off, went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. The king said, "Let him go to his own house; he is not to come into my presence." So Absalom went to his own house, and did not come into the king's presence. Now in all Israel there was no one to be praised so much for his beauty as Absalom; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. When he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king's weight. There were born to Absalom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Tamar; she was a beautiful woman.

So Absalom lived two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence. Then Absalom sent for Joab to send him to the king; but Joab would not come to him. He sent a second time, but Joab would not come. Then he said to his servants, "Look, Joab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." So Absalom's servants set the field on fire. Then Joab rose and went to Absalom at his house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" Absalom answered Joab, "Look, I sent word to you: Come here, that I may send you to the king with the question, Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still.' Now let me go into the king's presence; if there is guilt in me, let him kill me!" Then Joab went to the king and told him; and he summoned Absalom. So he came to the king and prostrated himself with his face to the ground before the king; and the king kissed Absalom.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## 12. A Song of Creation

*Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65*

### *Invocation*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### *I The Cosmic Order*

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.  
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
all winds and fire and heat.  
Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
drops of dew and flakes of snow

Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
O shining light and enfolding dark.  
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *II The Earth and its Creatures*

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.  
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *III The People of God*

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *Doxology*

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## **The Second Lesson**

**Acts 6:1-15**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.

Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word.” What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **17. The Song of Simeon**

*Luke 2:29-32*

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 Apostles' Creed**

**BCP p. 96**

**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 A**

*V.*      Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
*R.*      **And grant us your salvation.**  
*V.*      Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
*R.*      **Let your people sing with joy.**  
*V.*      Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
*R.*      **For only in you can we live in safety.**  
*V.*      Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
*R.*      **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
*V.*      Let your way be known upon earth;  
*R.*      **Your saving health among all nations.**  
*V.*      Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
*R.*      **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

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

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for the Presence of Christ**

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **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.

**Thanks be to God.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20,21*