

## Evening Prayer

### St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ

#### 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 45

BCP p. 647

My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips,  
because God has blessed you for ever.

Strap your sword upon your thigh, O mighty warrior, \*  
in your pride and in your majesty.

Ride out and conquer in the cause of truth \*  
and for the sake of justice.

Your right hand will show you marvelous things; \*  
your arrows are very sharp, O mighty warrior.  
The peoples are falling at your feet, \*  
and the king's enemies are losing heart.  
Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;  
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.  
All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.  
Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*  
on your right hand is the queen,  
adorned with the gold of Ophir.  
"Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
forget your people and your father's house.  
The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
he is your master; therefore do him honor.  
The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
the rich among the people seek your favor."  
All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.  
In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.  
With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
and enter into the palace of the king.  
"In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.  
I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
therefore nations will praise you for ever and 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 Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

### **Zechariah 2:10-13**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Zechariah.

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the LORD. Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all people, before the LORD; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

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 Second Lesson

*John 19:23-27*

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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**

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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.

### **St. Mary the Virgin, Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

O God, you have taken to yourself the blessed Virgin Mary, mother of your incarnate Son:  
Grant that we, who have been redeemed by his blood, may share with her the glory of your  
eternal kingdom; 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 Protection**

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and  
the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask  
for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours;  
through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit  
of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among  
us; 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*