

## **Evening Prayer**

### **Wednesday after the First Sunday of Advent**

Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name.

*Amos 5:8*

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

### **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 12

BCP p. 597

Help me, LORD, for there is no godly one left; \*  
the faithful have vanished from among us.  
Everyone speaks falsely with his neighbor; \*  
with a smooth tongue they speak from a double heart.  
Oh, that the LORD would cut off all smooth tongues, \*  
and close the lips that utter proud boasts!  
Those who say, "With our tongue will we prevail; \*  
our lips are our own; who is lord over us?"  
"Because the needy are oppressed,  
and the poor cry out in misery, \*  
I will rise up," says the LORD,  
"and give them the help they long for."  
The words of the LORD are pure words, \*  
like silver refined from ore  
and purified seven times in the fire.  
O LORD, watch over us \*  
and save us from this generation for ever.  
The wicked prowls on every side, \*  
and that which is worthless is highly prized by everyone.

## Psalm 13

BCP p. 597

How long, O LORD?  
will you forget me for ever? \*  
how long will you hide your face from me?  
How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,  
and grief in my heart, day after day? \*  
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?  
Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; \*  
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," \*  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.  
But I put my trust in your mercy; \*  
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.  
I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; \*  
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

## **Psalm 14**

**BCP p. 598**

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*  
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;  
there is none who does any good.  
The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, \*  
to see if there is any who is wise,  
if there is one who seeks after God.  
Every one has proved faithless;  
all alike have turned bad; \*  
there is none who does good; no, not one.  
Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers \*  
who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon the LORD?  
See how they tremble with fear, \*  
because God is in the company of the righteous.  
Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, \*  
but the LORD is their refuge.  
Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.  
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**

**1 Thess. 2:13-20**

A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

We also constantly give thanks to God for this, that when you received the word of God that you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word but as what it really is, God's word, which is also at work in you believers. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you suffered the same things from your own compatriots as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out; they displease God and oppose everyone by hindering us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. Thus they have constantly been filling up the measure of their sins; but God's wrath has overtaken them at last.

As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you—in person, not in heart—we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again—but Satan blocked our way. For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? Yes, you are our glory and joy!

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**

**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**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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, 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.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Romans 15:13*