

## **Evening Prayer**

### **Thursday 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 18: Part II

BCP p. 604

The LORD rewarded me because of my righteous dealing; \*  
because my hands were clean he rewarded me;  
For I have kept the ways of the LORD \*  
and have not offended against my God;  
For all his judgments are before my eyes, \*  
and his decrees I have not put away from me;  
For I have been blameless with him \*  
and have kept myself from iniquity;  
Therefore the LORD rewarded me according to my righteous dealing, \*  
because of the cleanness of my hands in his sight.  
With the faithful you show yourself faithful, O God; \*  
with the forthright you show yourself forthright.  
With the pure you show yourself pure, \*  
but with the crooked you are wily.  
You will save a lowly people, \*  
but you will humble the haughty eyes.  
You, O LORD, are my lamp; \*  
my God, you make my darkness bright.  
With you I will break down an enclosure; \*  
with the help of my God I will scale any wall.  
As for God, his ways are perfect;  
the words of the LORD are tried in the fire; \*  
he is a shield to all who trust in him.  
For who is God, but the LORD? \*  
who is the Rock, except our God?  
It is God who girds me about with strength \*  
and makes my way secure.  
He makes me sure-footed like a deer \*  
and lets me stand firm on the heights.  
He trains my hands for battle \*  
and my arms for bending even a bow of bronze.

You have given me your shield of victory; \*  
your right hand also sustains me;  
your loving care makes me great.  
You lengthen my stride beneath me, \*  
and my ankles do not give way.  
I pursue my enemies and overtake them; \*  
I will not turn back till I have destroyed them.  
I strike them down, and they cannot rise; \*  
they fall defeated at my feet.  
You have girded me with strength for the battle; \*  
you have cast down my adversaries beneath me;  
you have put my enemies to flight.  
I destroy those who hate me;  
they cry out, but there is none to help them; \*  
they cry to the LORD, but he does not answer.  
I beat them small like dust before the wind; \*  
I trample them like mud in the streets.  
You deliver me from the strife of the peoples; \*  
you put me at the head of the nations.  
A people I have not known shall serve me;  
no sooner shall they hear than they shall obey me; \*  
strangers will cringe before me.  
The foreign peoples will lose heart; \*  
they shall come trembling out of their strongholds.  
The LORD lives! Blessed is my Rock! \*  
Exalted is the God of my salvation!  
He is the God who gave me victory \*  
and cast down the peoples beneath me.  
You rescued me from the fury of my enemies;  
you exalted me above those who rose against me; \*  
you saved me from my deadly foe.  
Therefore will I extol you among the nations, O LORD, \*  
and sing praises to your Name.  
He multiplies the victories of his king; \*  
he shows loving-kindness to his anointed,  
to David and his descendants 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 Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

**1 Thess. 3:1-13**

A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we decided to be left alone in Athens; and we sent Timothy, our brother and co-worker for God in proclaiming the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you for the sake of your faith, so that no one would be shaken by

these persecutions. Indeed, you yourselves know that this is what we are destined for. In fact, when we were with you, we told you beforehand that we were to suffer persecution; so it turned out, as you know. For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith; I was afraid that somehow the tempter had tempted you and that our labor had been in vain.

But Timothy has just now come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love. He has told us also that you always remember us kindly and long to see us—just as we long to see you. For this reason, brothers and sisters, during all our distress and persecution we have been encouraged about you through your faith. For we now live, if you continue to stand firm in the Lord. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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 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**

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 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 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.

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*