

## Evening Prayer

### The Third Sunday of Advent

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 1:2*

### 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 103

BCP p. 733

Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits.  
He forgives all your sins \*  
and heals all your infirmities;  
He redeems your life from the grave \*  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;  
He satisfies you with good things, \*  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.  
The LORD executes righteousness \*  
and judgment for all who are oppressed.  
He made his ways known to Moses \*  
and his works to the children of Israel.  
The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.  
As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.  
For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.  
Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;  
When the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.

But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him, \*  
and his righteousness on children's children;  
On those who keep his covenant \*  
and remember his commandments and do them.  
The LORD has set his throne in heaven, \*  
and his kingship has dominion over all.  
Bless the LORD, you angels of his,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding, \*  
and hearken to the voice of his word.  
Bless the LORD, all you his hosts, \*  
you ministers of his who do his will.  
Bless the LORD, all you works of his,  
in all places of his dominion; \*  
bless the LORD, O my soul.  
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**

**John 3:22-30**

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized —John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, 'I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.' He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."

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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### Seasonal Collect

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 Sundays**

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. 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 him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

*Ephesians 3:20,21*