

## **Evening Prayer**

### **Wednesday after 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 49

BCP p. 652

Hear this, all you peoples;  
hearken, all you who dwell in the world, \*  
you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.  
My mouth shall speak of wisdom, \*  
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.  
I will incline my ear to a proverb \*  
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.  
Why should I be afraid in evil days, \*  
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,  
The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, \*  
and boast of their great riches?  
We can never ransom ourselves, \*  
or deliver to God the price of our life;  
For the ransom of our life is so great, \*  
that we should never have enough to pay it,  
In order to live for ever and ever, \*  
and never see the grave.  
For we see that the wise die also;  
like the dull and stupid they perish \*  
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.  
Their graves shall be their homes for ever,  
their dwelling places from generation to generation, \*  
though they call the lands after their own names.  
Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; \*  
they are like the beasts that perish.  
Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, \*  
and the end of those who delight in their own words.  
Like a flock of sheep they are destined to die;  
Death is their shepherd; \*  
they go down straightway to the grave.  
Their form shall waste away, \*  
and the land of the dead shall be their home.

But God will ransom my life; \*  
he will snatch me from the grasp of death.  
Do not be envious when some become rich, \*  
or when the grandeur of their house increases;  
For they will carry nothing away at their death, \*  
nor will their grandeur follow them.  
Though they thought highly of themselves while they lived, \*  
and were praised for their success,  
They shall join the company of their forebears, \*  
who will never see the light again.  
Those who are honored, but have no understanding, \*  
are like the beasts that perish.

### **Psalm 53**

**BCP p. 658**

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.  
God 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, those evildoers \*  
who eat up my people like bread  
and do not call upon God?  
See how greatly they tremble,  
such trembling as never was; \*  
for God has scattered the bones of the enemy;  
they are put to shame, because God has rejected them.  
Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when God 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**

**Mark 1:1-8**

A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark.  
The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.  
As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

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.

### **A Collect for Peace**

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. 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.

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*