

## **Morning Prayer**

### **Friday after the Third Sunday of Advent**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

*Isaiah 40:3*

### **Invitatory and Psalter**

**BCP p. 80**

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.  
*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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.

### **Venite**

*Psalm 95:1-7*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

### **Psalm 40**

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I waited patiently upon the LORD; \*  
he stooped to me and heard my cry.

He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; \*  
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.  
He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God; \*  
many shall see, and stand in awe,  
and put their trust in the LORD.  
Happy are they who trust in the LORD! \*  
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.  
Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!  
how great your wonders and your plans for us! \*  
there is none who can be compared with you.  
Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! \*  
but they are more than I can count.  
In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure \*  
(you have given me ears to hear you);  
Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, \*  
and so I said, "Behold, I come.  
In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: \*  
'I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep in my heart.'"  
I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \*  
behold, I did not restrain my lips;  
and that, O LORD, you know.  
Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; \*  
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.  
You are the LORD;  
do not withhold your compassion from me; \*  
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever,  
For innumerable troubles have crowded upon me;  
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see; \*  
they are more in number than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails me.  
Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; \*  
O LORD, make haste to help me.  
Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed  
who seek after my life to destroy it; \*  
let them draw back and be disgraced who take pleasure in my misfortune.  
Let those who say "Aha!" and gloat over me be confounded, \*  
because they are ashamed.  
Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; \*  
let those who love your salvation continually say,  
"Great is the LORD!"  
Though I am poor and afflicted, \*  
the Lord will have regard for me.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; \*  
do not tarry, O my God.

## Psalm 54

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Save me, O God, by your Name; \*  
in your might, defend my cause.  
Hear my prayer, O God; \*  
give ear to the words of my mouth.  
For the arrogant have risen up against me,  
and the ruthless have sought my life, \*  
those who have no regard for God.  
Behold, God is my helper; \*  
it is the Lord who sustains my life.  
Render evil to those who spy on me; \*  
in your faithfulness, destroy them.  
I will offer you a freewill sacrifice \*  
and praise your Name, O LORD, for it is good.  
For you have rescued me from every trouble, \*  
and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes.  
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

Isa. 10:5-19

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger—the club in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. But this is not what he intends, nor does he have this in mind; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few. For he says: “Are not my commanders all kings? Is not Calno like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like Arpad? Is not Samaria like Damascus? As my hand has reached to the kingdoms of the idols whose images were greater than those of Jerusalem and Samaria, shall I not do to Jerusalem and her idols what I have done to Samaria and her images?” When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the arrogant boasting of the king of Assyria and his haughty pride. For he says: “By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I have removed the boundaries of peoples, and have plundered their treasures; like a bull I have brought down those who sat on thrones. My hand has found, like a nest, the wealth of the peoples; and as one gathers eggs that have been forsaken, so I have gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved a wing, or opened its mouth, or chirped.” Shall the ax vaunt itself over the one who wields it, or the saw magnify itself against the one who handles it? As if a rod should raise the one who lifts it up, or as if a staff should lift the one who is not wood! Therefore the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts, will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors, and under his glory a burning will be kindled, like the burning of fire. The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame; and it will burn and devour his thorns and briers in one day. The glory of his forest and his fruitful land the LORD will destroy, both soul and body, and it will be as

when an invalid wastes away. The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## **10. The Second Song of Isaiah**

*Isaiah 55:6-11*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \*  
call upon him when he draws near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways \*  
and the evil ones their thoughts;  
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \*  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \*  
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, \*  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.  
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**

**2 Pet. 2:17-22**

A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter.

These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm; for them the deepest darkness has been reserved. For they speak bombastic nonsense, and with licentious desires of the flesh they entice people who have just escaped from those who live in error. They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption; for people are slaves to whatever masters them. For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overpowered, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment that was passed on to them. It has happened to them according to the true proverb, "The dog turns back to its own vomit," and, "The sow is washed only to wallow in the mud."

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## 18. A Song to the Lamb

*Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13*

Splendor and honor and kingly power \*  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, \*  
and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.  
And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
for ever and for evermore.

## 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

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*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 Fridays**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the

cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.*

### **The General Thanksgiving**

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Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. 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*