

Saturday – Christmas Eve
Evening Prayer

Opening Sentence

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Psalm 96:9

Versicle and Response

O God, make speed to save us.

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.

Invitatory

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.

Psalms

Psalm 89:1-29

¹Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing;*
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; *
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

⁴"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;*
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁵"I will establish your line for ever,*
and preserve your throne for all generations."

⁶The heavens bear witness to your wonders, O LORD,*
and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones;

⁷For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? *
who is like the LORD among the gods?

⁸God is much to be feared in the council of the holy ones, *
great and terrible to all those round about him.

⁹Who is like you, LORD God of hosts? *
O mighty LORD, your faithfulness is all around you.

¹⁰You rule the raging of the sea *

and still the surging of its waves.

¹¹You have crushed Rahab of the deep with a deadly wound;*
you have scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.

¹²Yours are the heavens; the earth also is yours;*
you laid the foundations of the world and all that is in it.

¹³You have made the north and the south;*
Tabor and Hermon rejoice in your Name.

¹⁴You have a mighty arm;*
strong is your hand and high is your right hand.

¹⁵Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; *
¹⁶ve and truth go before your face.

¹⁷Happy are the people who know the festal shout! *
they walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence.

¹⁸They rejoice daily in your Name;*
they are jubilant in your righteousness.

¹⁹ You spoke once in vision and said to your faithful people: *
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

²⁰ I have found David my servant; *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹ My hand will hold him fast *
and my arm will make him strong.

²² No enemy shall deceive him, *
nor any wicked man bring him down.

²³ I will crush his foes before him *
and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴ My faithfulness and love shall be with him, *
and he shall be victorious through my Name.

²⁵ I shall make his dominion extend *
from the Great Sea to the River.

²⁶ He will say to me, 'You are my Father, *
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

²⁷ I will make him my firstborn *
and higher than the kings of the earth.

²⁸ I will keep my love for him for ever, *
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

²⁹ I will establish his line for ever *

and his throne as the days of heaven."

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 59:15-21

Truth is lacking,
and whoever turns from evil is despoiled.

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him
that there was no justice.
He saw that there was no one,
and was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm brought him victory,
and his righteousness upheld him.
He put on righteousness like a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and wrapped himself in fury as in a mantle.
According to their deeds, so will he repay;
wrath to his adversaries, requital to his enemies;
to the coastlands he will render requital.
So those in the west shall fear the name of the Lord,
and those in the east, his glory;
for he will come like a pent-up stream
that the wind of the Lord drives on.

And he will come to Zion as Redeemer,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, says the Lord.
And as for me, this is my covenant with them, says the Lord: my spirit that is upon you, and my words
that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouths of your children,
or out of the mouths of your children's children, says the Lord, from now on and for ever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 17

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

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.

Reading

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was* in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Apostle's Creed

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 Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.
Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day: Advent 4

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Protection

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

Prayers and Intercessions

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

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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.

Benediction

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