

## Morning Prayer

### Thursday after the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

*Isaiah 60:3*

### 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***

*The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.*

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!

*The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.*

### Psalm 70

**BCP p. 682**

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; \*

O LORD, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; \*

let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, \*

because they are ashamed.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; \*

let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!"

But as for me, I am poor and needy; \*  
come to me speedily, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; \*  
O LORD, do not tarry.

**Psalm 71**

**BCP p. 683**

In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; \*  
let me never be ashamed.  
In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; \*  
incline your ear to me and save me.  
Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; \*  
you are my crag and my stronghold.  
Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, \*  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.  
For you are my hope, O LORD God, \*  
my confidence since I was young.  
I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you have been my  
strength; \*  
my praise shall be always of you.  
I have become a portent to many; \*  
but you are my refuge and my strength.  
Let my mouth be full of your praise \*  
and your glory all the day long.  
Do not cast me off in my old age; \*  
forsake me not when my strength fails.  
For my enemies are talking against me, \*  
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.  
They say, "God has forsaken him; go after him and seize him; \*  
because there is none who will save."  
O God, be not far from me; \*  
come quickly to help me, O my God.  
Let those who set themselves against me be put to shame and be disgraced; \*  
let those who seek to do me evil be covered with scorn and reproach.  
But I shall always wait in patience, \*  
and shall praise you more and more.  
My mouth shall recount your mighty acts and saving deeds all day long; \*  
though I cannot know the number of them.  
I will begin with the mighty works of the Lord GOD; \*  
I will recall your righteousness, yours alone.  
O God, you have taught me since I was young, \*  
and to this day I tell of your wonderful works.  
And now that I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, \*  
till I make known your strength to this generation and your power to all who are to come.  
Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; \*  
you have done great things; who is like you, O God?  
You have showed me great troubles and adversities, \*  
but you will restore my life and bring me up again from the deep places of the earth.  
You strengthen me more and more; \*  
you enfold and comfort me,

Therefore I will praise you upon the lyre for your faithfulness, O my God; \*  
I will sing to you with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.  
My lips will sing with joy when I play to you, \*  
and so will my soul, which you have redeemed.  
My tongue will proclaim your righteousness all day long, \*  
for they are ashamed and disgraced who sought to do me harm.  
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 Gen. 23:1-20**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Sarah lived one hundred twenty-seven years; this was the length of Sarah's life. And Sarah died at Kiriath-arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan; and Abraham went in to mourn for Sarah and to weep for her.

Abraham rose up from beside his dead, and said to the Hittites, "I am a stranger and an alien residing among you; give me property among you for a burying place, so that I may bury my dead out of my sight." The Hittites answered Abraham, "Hear us, my lord; you are a mighty prince among us. Bury your dead in the choicest of our burial places; none of us will withhold from you any burial ground for burying your dead." Abraham rose and bowed to the Hittites, the people of the land. He said to them, "If you are willing that I should bury my dead out of my sight, hear me, and entreat for me Ephron son of Zohar, so that he may give me the cave of Machpelah, which he owns; it is at the end of his field. For the full price let him give it to me in your presence as a possession for a burying place." Now Ephron was sitting among the Hittites; and Ephron the Hittite answered Abraham in the hearing of the Hittites, of all who went in at the gate of his city, "No, my lord, hear me; I give you the field, and I give you the cave that is in it; in the presence of my people I give it to you; bury your dead." Then Abraham bowed down before the people of the land. He said to Ephron in the hearing of the people of the land, "If you only will listen to me! I will give the price of the field; accept it from me, so that I may bury my dead there." Ephron answered Abraham, "My lord, listen to me; a piece of land worth four hundred shekels of silver—what is that between you and me? Bury your dead."

Abraham agreed with Ephron; and Abraham weighed out for Ephron the silver that he had named in the hearing of the Hittites, four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weights current among the merchants. So the field of Ephron in Machpelah, which was to the east of Mamre, the field with the cave that was in it and all the trees that were in the field, throughout its whole area, passed to Abraham as a possession in the presence of the Hittites, in the presence of all who went in at the gate of his city. After this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah facing Mamre (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan. The field and the cave that is in it passed from the Hittites into Abraham's possession as a burying place.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 8. The Song of Moses

*Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.  
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*  
the Lord has become my Savior.  
This is my God and I will praise him, \*  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.  
The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*  
Yahweh is his Name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*  
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.  
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*  
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.  
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*  
who is like you, glorious in holiness, awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?  
You stretched forth your right hand; \*  
the earth swallowed them up.  
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*  
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.  
You will bring them in and plant them \*  
on the mount of your possession,  
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.  
The Lord shall reign \*  
for ever and 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 Second Lesson John 6:60-71

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil." He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**20. Glory to God**

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Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the  
world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**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**

**BCP p. 97**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Officiant* 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 B**

∇. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
R. **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**  
∇. Day by day we bless you;  
R. **We praise your name for ever.**  
∇. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**  
∇. Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
R. **For we put our trust in you.**  
∇. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. **And we shall never hope in vain.**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Martyrs of Japan, 1597**

O God our Father, who brought the holy martyrs of Japan through the suffering of the cross to the joys of eternal life: Grant that we, encouraged by their example, may hold fast to the faith we profess, even unto death itself; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Guidance**

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **A Prayer for Mission**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

*Let us pray 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.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine:  
Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and  
ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20,21*