

## Evening Prayer

### Friday after the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall.

*Psalm 16:7,8*

### 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 73**

**BCP p. 687**

Truly, God is good to Israel, \*  
to those who are pure in heart.  
But as for me, my feet had nearly slipped; \*  
I had almost tripped and fallen;  
Because I envied the proud \*  
and saw the prosperity of the wicked:  
For they suffer no pain, \*  
and their bodies are sleek and sound;  
In the misfortunes of others they have no share; \*  
they are not afflicted as others are;  
Therefore they wear their pride like a necklace \*  
and wrap their violence about them like a cloak.  
Their iniquity comes from gross minds, \*  
and their hearts overflow with wicked thoughts.  
They scoff and speak maliciously; \*  
out of their haughtiness they plan oppression.  
They set their mouths against the heavens, \*  
and their evil speech runs through the world.  
And so the people turn to them \*  
and find in them no fault.  
They say, "How should God know? \*  
is there knowledge in the Most High?"  
So then, these are the wicked; \*  
always at ease, they increase their wealth.  
In vain have I kept my heart clean, \*  
and washed my hands in innocence.  
I have been afflicted all day long, \*  
and punished every morning.  
Had I gone on speaking this way, \*  
I should have betrayed the generation of your children.  
When I tried to understand these things, \*  
it was too hard for me;  
Until I entered the sanctuary of God \*  
and discerned the end of the wicked.  
Surely, you set them in slippery places; \*  
you cast them down in ruin.  
Oh, how suddenly do they come to destruction, \*  
come to an end, and perish from terror!  
Like a dream when one awakens, O Lord, \*  
when you arise you will make their image vanish.  
When my mind became embittered, \*  
I was sorely wounded in my heart.  
I was stupid and had no understanding; \*  
I was like a brute beast in your presence.  
Yet I am always with you; \*  
you hold me by my right hand.  
You will guide me by your counsel, \*  
and afterwards receive me with glory.  
Whom have I in heaven but you? \*  
and having you I desire nothing upon earth.

Though my flesh and my heart should waste away, \*  
God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.  
Truly, those who forsake you will perish; \*  
you destroy all who are unfaithful.  
But it is good for me to be near God; \*  
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge.  
I will speak of all your works \*  
in the gates of the city of Zion.  
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 Lesson**

### **Heb. 12:3-11**

A Reading from the Book of Hebrews.

Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as children— “My child, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, or lose heart when you are punished by him; for the Lord disciplines those whom he loves, and chastises every child whom he accepts.” Endure trials for the sake of discipline. God is treating you as children; for what child is there whom a parent does not discipline? If you do not have that discipline in which all children share, then you are illegitimate and not his children. Moreover, we had human parents to discipline us, and we respected them. Should we not be even more willing to be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share his holiness. Now, discipline always seems painful rather than pleasant at the time, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **13. A Song of Praise**

### ***Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34***

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.  
Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

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

*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 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**

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.**

### **A Collect for Fridays**

Lord Jesus Christ, by your death you took away the sting of death: Grant to us your servants so to follow in faith where you have led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in you and wake up in your likeness; for your tender mercies' sake. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Let us pray 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 God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and  
ever. **Amen.**

*Ephesians 3:20,21*