

## Morning Prayer

### Thursday after the First Sunday after Christmas

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

*John 1:14*

### 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.

### Jubilate

*Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.  
Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.  
For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

### Psalm 34

**BCP p. 627**

I will bless the LORD at all times; \*  
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.  
I will glory in the LORD; \*  
let the humble hear and rejoice.  
Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; \*  
let us exalt his Name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me \*  
and delivered me out of all my terror.  
Look upon him and be radiant, \*  
and let not your faces be ashamed.  
I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me \*  
and saved me from all my troubles.  
The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him, \*  
and he will deliver them.  
Taste and see that the LORD is good; \*  
happy are they who trust in him!  
Fear the LORD, you that are his saints, \*  
for those who fear him lack nothing.  
The young lions lack and suffer hunger, \*  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.  
Come, children, and listen to me; \*  
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.  
Who among you loves life \*  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?  
Keep your tongue from evil-speaking \*  
and your lips from lying words.  
Turn from evil and do good; \*  
seek peace and pursue it.  
The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, \*  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, \*  
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.  
The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them \*  
and delivers them from all their troubles.  
The LORD is near to the brokenhearted \*  
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.  
Many are the troubles of the righteous, \*  
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.  
He will keep safe all his bones; \*  
not one of them shall be broken.  
Evil shall slay the wicked, \*  
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.  
The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, \*  
and none will be punished who trust in him.  
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. 12:1-7**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

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

Heb. 11:1-12

A Reading from the Book of Hebrews.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain's. Through this he received approval as righteous, God himself giving approval to his gifts; he died, but through his faith he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken so that he did not experience death; and "he was not found, because God had taken him." For it was attested before he was taken away that "he had pleased God." And without faith it is impossible to please God, for whoever would approach him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, warned by God about events as yet unseen, respected the warning and built an ark to save his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir to the righteousness that is in accordance with faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## 20. Glory to God

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**

**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**

**BCP p. 97**

*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 B**

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

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

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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 now for our own needs and those of others.*

## The General Thanksgiving

BCP p. 101

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 him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for  
ever and ever. Amen.

*Ephesians 3:20,21*