

## Evening Prayer

### Friday after the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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*

**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 91

**BCP p. 719**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.  
He shall say to the LORD,  
“You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust.”  
He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter \*  
and from the deadly pestilence.  
He shall cover you with his pinions,  
and you shall find refuge under his wings; \*  
his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, \*  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;  
Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.  
A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, \*  
but it shall not come near you.  
Your eyes have only to behold \*  
to see the reward of the wicked.  
Because you have made the LORD your refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,  
There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.  
For he shall give his angels charge over you, \*  
to keep you in all your ways.  
They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.  
Because he is bound to me in love,  
therefore will I deliver him; \*  
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.  
He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; \*  
I am with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.  
With long life will I satisfy him, \*  
and show him my salvation.

## Psalm 92

BCP p. 720

It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, \*  
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;  
To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning \*  
and of your faithfulness in the night season;  
On the psaltery, and on the lyre, \*  
and to the melody of the harp.  
For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; \*  
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.  
LORD, how great are your works! \*  
your thoughts are very deep.  
The dullard does not know,  
nor does the fool understand, \*  
that though the wicked grow like weeds,  
and all the workers of iniquity flourish,  
They flourish only to be destroyed for ever; \*  
but you, O LORD, are exalted for evermore.

For lo, your enemies, O LORD,  
lo, your enemies shall perish, \*  
and all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.  
But my horn you have exalted like the horns of wild bulls; \*  
I am anointed with fresh oil.  
My eyes also gloat over my enemies, \*  
and my ears rejoice to hear the doom of the wicked who rise up against me.  
The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, \*  
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.  
Those who are planted in the house of the LORD \*  
shall flourish in the courts of our God;  
They shall still bear fruit in old age; \*  
they shall be green and succulent;  
That they may show how upright the LORD is, \*  
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.  
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**

**Rom. 2:25-3:8**

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

Circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law; but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. So, if those who are uncircumcised keep the requirements of the law, will not their uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then those who are physically uncircumcised but keep the law will condemn you that have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical. Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart—it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God.

Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much, in every way. For in the first place the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God. What if some were unfaithful? Will their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God? By no means! Although everyone is a liar, let God be proved true, as it is written, “So that you may be justified in your words, and prevail in your judging.” But if our injustice serves to confirm the justice of God, what should we say? That God is unjust to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my falsehood God’s truthfulness abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not say (as some people slander us by saying that we say), “Let us do evil so that good may come”? Their condemnation is deserved!

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## 15. The Song of Mary

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children 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 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, 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**

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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 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.

*Let us pray now 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*