

## Morning Prayer

### The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but citizens together with the saints and members of the household of God.

*Ephesians 2:19*

#### 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*

*The Lord is glorious in his saints: Come, let us adore him.*

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.

*The Lord is glorious in his saints: Come, let us adore him.*

#### Psalm 82

BCP p. 705

God takes his stand in the council of heaven; \*

he gives judgment in the midst of the gods:

“How long will you judge unjustly, \*

and show favor to the wicked?

Save the weak and the orphan; \*

defend the humble and needy;

Rescue the weak and the poor; \*

deliver them from the power of the wicked.

They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness; \*

all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, \*

and all of you children of the Most High;

Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, \*

and fall like any prince.”

Arise, O God, and rule the earth, \*  
for you shall take all nations for your own.

**Psalm 98**

**BCP p. 727**

Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.  
With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.  
The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.  
He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.  
Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.  
Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.  
Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.  
Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.  
In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.  
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 Malachi 3:1-5**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

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

### **16. The Song of Zechariah**

*Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
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 3:22-30**

A Reading from the Gospel According to John.

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized —John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison. Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him." He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."

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

## 21. You are God

BCP p. 95

You are God: we praise you; You are the Lord; we acclaim you; You are the eternal Father: All creation worships you. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you; Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free you did not shun the Virgin's womb. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at God's right hand in glory. We believe that you will come and be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

## 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 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 Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Savior by preaching repentance: Make us so to follow his teaching and holy life, that we may truly repent according to his preaching; and, following his example, constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A Prayer for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all

members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

*Ephesians 3:20,21*