

## **Evening Prayer**

### **Friday after Ash Wednesday**

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Philippians 1:2*

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Invitatory and Psalter**

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*Officiant* O God, make speed to save us.

*People* O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## 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 thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art 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 35

Plead thou my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me \*  
and fight thou against them that fight against me.  
Lay hand upon the shield and buckler \*  
and stand up to help me.  
Bring forth the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me \*  
say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.  
Let them be confounded, and put to shame, that seek after my soul \*  
let them be turned back, and brought to confusion, that imagine mischief for me.  
Let them be as the dust before the wind \*  
and the angel of the Lord scattering them.  
Let their way be dark and slippery \*  
and let the angel of the Lord persecute them.  
For they have privily laid their net to destroy me without a cause \*  
yea, even without a cause have they made a pit for my soul.  
Let a sudden destruction come upon him unawares, and his net, that he hath laid privily, catch  
himself \*  
that he may fall into his own mischief.  
And, my soul, be joyful in the Lord \*  
it shall rejoice in his salvation.  
All my bones shall say, Lord, who is like unto thee, who deliverest the poor from him that is  
too strong for him \*  
yea, the poor, and him that is in misery, from him that spoileth him?  
False witnesses did rise up \*  
they laid to my charge things that I knew not.  
They rewarded me evil for good \*  
to the great discomfort of my soul.  
Nevertheless, when they were sick, I put on sackcloth, and humbled my soul with fasting \*  
and my prayer shall turn into mine own bosom.  
I behaved myself as though it had been my friend, or my brother \*  
I went heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.  
But in mine adversity they rejoiced, and gathered themselves together \*  
yea, the very abjects came together against me unawares, making mouths at me, and  
ceased not.

With the flatterers were busy mockers \*  
 who gnashed upon me with their teeth.  
 Lord, how long wilt thou look upon this \*  
 O deliver my soul from the calamities which they bring on me, and my darling from the  
 lions.  
 So will I give thee thanks in the great congregation \*  
 I will praise thee among much people.  
 O let not them that are mine enemies triumph over me ungodly \*  
 neither let them wink with their eyes that hate me without a cause.  
 And why? their communing is not for peace \*  
 but they imagine deceitful words against them that are quiet in the land.  
 They gaped upon me with their mouths, and said \*  
 Fie on thee, fie on thee, we saw it with our eyes.  
 This thou hast seen, O Lord \*  
 hold not thy tongue then, go not far from me, O Lord.  
 Awake, and stand up to judge my quarrel \*  
 avenge thou my cause, my God, and my Lord.  
 Judge me, O Lord my God, according to thy righteousness \*  
 and let them not triumph over me.  
 Let them not say in their hearts, There, there, so would we have it \*  
 neither let them say, We have devoured him.  
 Let them be put to confusion and shame together, that rejoice at my trouble \*  
 let them be clothed with rebuke and dishonour, that boast themselves against me.  
 Let them be glad and rejoice, that favour my righteous dealing \*  
 yea, let them say alway, Blessed be the Lord, who hath pleasure in the prosperity of his  
 servant.  
 And as for my tongue, it shall be talking of thy righteousness \*  
 and of thy praise all the day long.  
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \*  
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

**Ezek. 18:1-4,25-32**

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord came unto me again, saying,

What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge?

As I live, saith the Lord God, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel.

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. Hear now, O house of Israel; Is not my way equal? are not your ways unequal?

When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.

Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Yet saith the house of Israel, The way of the Lord is not equal. O house of Israel, are not my ways equal? are not your ways unequal?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### **3. The Song of Mary**

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \*  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **The Second Lesson**

**Titus 2:1-15**

A Reading from the Letter to Titus.

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again;

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **5. The Song of Simeon**

***Luke 2:29-32***

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, \*  
according to thy word;

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, \*  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: \*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## The Apostles' Creed

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**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
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 with thy spirit.  
*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. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
R. And grant us thy salvation.  
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in thee can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;  
R. Thy 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 thy Holy Spirit.

## Friday After Ash Wednesday

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## A Collect for Fridays

O Lord Jesus Christ, who by thy death didst take away the sting of death: Grant unto us thy servants so to follow in faith where thou hast led the way, that we may at length fall asleep peacefully in thee, and awake up after thy likeness; for thy tender mercies' sake. Amen.

## A Prayer for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

*Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.*

**A Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

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Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Romans 15:13*