

## Evening Prayer

Tuesday after the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

### 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 36

BCP p. 632

There is a voice of rebellion deep in the heart of the wicked; \*  
there is no fear of God before his eyes.

He flatters himself in his own eyes \*  
that his hateful sin will not be found out.

The words of his mouth are wicked and deceitful; \*  
he has left off acting wisely and doing good.

He thinks up wickedness upon his bed  
and has set himself in no good way; \*

he does not abhor that which is evil.

Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, \*  
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,  
your justice like the great deep; \*  
you save both man and beast, O LORD.  
How priceless is your love, O God! \*  
your people take refuge under the shadow of your wings.  
They feast upon the abundance of your house; \*  
you give them drink from the river of your delights.  
For with you is the well of life, \*  
and in your light we see light.  
Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you, \*  
and your favor to those who are true of heart.  
Let not the foot of the proud come near me, \*  
nor the hand of the wicked push me aside.  
See how they are fallen, those who work wickedness! \*  
they are cast down and shall not be able to rise.

### Psalm 39

BCP p. 638

I said, "I will keep watch upon my ways, \*  
so that I do not offend with my tongue.  
I will put a muzzle on my mouth \*  
while the wicked are in my presence."  
So I held my tongue and said nothing; \*  
I refrained from rash words;  
but my pain became unbearable.  
My heart was hot within me;  
while I pondered, the fire burst into flame; \*  
I spoke out with my tongue:  
LORD, let me know my end and the number of my days, \*  
so that I may know how short my life is.  
You have given me a mere handful of days,  
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight; \*  
truly, even those who stand erect are but a puff of wind.  
We walk about like a shadow,  
and in vain we are in turmoil; \*  
we heap up riches and cannot tell who will gather them.  
And now, what is my hope? \*  
O Lord, my hope is in you.  
Deliver me from all my transgressions \*  
and do not make me the taunt of the fool.  
I fell silent and did not open my mouth, \*  
for surely it was you that did it.  
Take your affliction from me; \*  
I am worn down by the blows of your hand.  
With rebukes for sin you punish us;  
like a moth you eat away all that is dear to us; \*  
truly, everyone is but a puff of wind.

Hear my prayer, O LORD,  
and give ear to my cry; \*  
hold not your peace at my tears.  
For I am but a sojourner with you, \*  
a wayfarer, as all my forebears were.  
Turn your gaze from me, that I may be glad again, \*  
before I go my way and am no more.  
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**

**Acts 12:1-17**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover.

While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting." As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind!" But she insisted that it was so. They said, "It is his angel." Meanwhile Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, "Tell this to James and to the believers." Then he left and went to another place.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## 10. The Second Song of Isaiah

*Isaiah 55:6-11*

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \*  
call upon him when he draws near.  
Let the wicked forsake their ways \*  
and the evil ones their thoughts;  
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \*  
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \*  
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, \*  
so are my ways higher than your ways,  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \*  
and return not again, but water the earth,  
Bringing forth life and giving growth, \*  
seed for sowing and bread for eating,  
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \*  
it will not return to me empty;  
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \*  
and prosper in that for which I sent it.  
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

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**

*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**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.

We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

We entreat you, O Lord.

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

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; 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 the Presence of Christ**

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. 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.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*