

## Evening Prayer

### Wednesday after the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

*Psalm 141:2*

### Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

### 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 49

**BCP p. 652**

Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell in the world, \*  
 you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.  
 My mouth shall speak of wisdom, \*  
 and my heart shall meditate on understanding.  
 I will incline my ear to a proverb \*  
 and set forth my riddle upon the harp.  
 Why should I be afraid in evil days, \*  
 when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,  
 The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, \*  
 and boast of their great riches?  
 We can never ransom ourselves, \*  
 or deliver to God the price of our life;  
 For the ransom of our life is so great, \*  
 that we should never have enough to pay it,  
 In order to live for ever and ever, \*  
 and never see the grave.  
 For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish \*  
 and leave their wealth to those who come after them.  
 Their graves shall be their homes for ever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, \*  
 though they call the lands after their own names.  
 Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; \*  
 they are like the beasts that perish.  
 Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, \*  
 and the end of those who delight in their own words.  
 Like a flock of sheep they are destined to die; Death is their shepherd; \*  
 they go down straightway to the grave.  
 Their form shall waste away, \*  
 and the land of the dead shall be their home.  
 But God will ransom my life; \*  
 he will snatch me from the grasp of death.  
 Do not be envious when some become rich, \*  
 or when the grandeur of their house increases;  
 For they will carry nothing away at their death, \*  
 nor will their grandeur follow them.  
 Though they thought highly of themselves while they lived, \*  
 and were praised for their success,  
 They shall join the company of their forebears, \*  
 who will never see the light again.  
 Those who are honored, but have no understanding, \*  
 are like the beasts that perish.

**Psalm 53**

**BCP p. 658**

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." \*  
 All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.  
 God looks down from heaven upon us all, \*  
 to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God.  
 Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; \*  
 there is none who does good; no, not one.  
 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers \*  
 who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon God?

See how greatly they tremble, such trembling as never was; \*  
for God has scattered the bones of the enemy; they are put to shame, because God has rejected them.

Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! \*  
when God restores the fortunes of his people Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.

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 Lesson**

## **Matt. 2:1-12**

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **12. A Song of Creation     *Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65***

### *Invocation*

Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

### *I The Cosmic Order*

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, \*  
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.

Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, \*  
all winds and fire and heat.  
Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, \*  
drops of dew and flakes of snow  
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, \*  
O shining light and enfolding dark.  
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *II The Earth and its Creatures*

Let the earth glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O mountains and hills, and all that grows upon the earth, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas, and streams, \*  
O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, \*  
and all you flocks and herds.  
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *III The People of God*

Let the people of God glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O priests and servants of the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
Glorify the Lord, O spirits and souls of the righteous, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
You that are holy and humble of heart, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

## *Doxology*

Let us glorify the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, \*  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

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 in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for 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**

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Protection**

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **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 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*