

## Evening Prayer

Wednesday after the Sixteenth 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 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 Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

**Acts 14:19-28**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

But Jews came there from Antioch and Iconium and won over the crowds. Then they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples surrounded him, he got up and went into the city. The next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, then on to Iconium and Antioch. There they strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, "It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God." And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. When they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had completed. When they arrived, they called the church together and related all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. And they stayed there with the disciples for some time.

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, 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**

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 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, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; 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.

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*