

## Evening Prayer

### Holy Cross Day

### 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.

### 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 118

BCP p. 760

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, \*

“His mercy endures for ever.”

Let the house of Aaron now proclaim, \*

“His mercy endures for ever.”

Let those who fear the LORD now proclaim, \*

“His mercy endures for ever.”

I called to the LORD in my distress; \*

the LORD answered by setting me free.

The LORD is at my side, therefore I will not fear; \*  
what can anyone do to me?

The LORD is at my side to help me; \*  
I will triumph over those who hate me.  
It is better to rely on the LORD \*  
than to put any trust in flesh.  
It is better to rely on the LORD \*  
than to put any trust in rulers.  
All the ungodly encompass me; \*  
in the Name of the LORD I will repel them.  
They hem me in, they hem me in on every side; \*  
in the name of the LORD I will repel them.  
They swarm about me like bees;  
they blaze like a fire of thorns; \*  
in the name of the LORD I will repel them.  
I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, \*  
but the LORD came to my help.  
The LORD is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.  
There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the LORD has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!  
the right hand of the LORD has triumphed!”  
I shall not die, but live, \*  
and declare the works of the LORD.  
The LORD has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.  
Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the LORD.  
“This is the gate of the LORD; \*  
he who is righteous may enter.”  
I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.  
The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the LORD’S doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
On this day the LORD has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Hosanna, LORD, hosanna! \*  
LORD, send us now success.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; \*  
we bless you from the house of the LORD.  
God is the LORD; he has shined upon us; \*  
form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.  
“You are my God, and I will thank you; \*  
you are my God, and I will exalt you.”  
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; \*  
his mercy endures for ever.  
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**

**Genesis 3:1-15**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### **15. The Song of Mary**

**Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
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**

**1 Peter 3:17-22**

A Reading from the First Letter of Peter.

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## **17. The Song of Simeon**

*Luke 2:29-32*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
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.

### **Holy Cross Day**

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he  
might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of  
our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

### **A Collect for Saturdays**

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you,  
that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give  
you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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*