



Please join us on Thursday, December 17 at 7:00pm for Evening Prayer, Rite Two, led by **Esabel Mariso**.

Note: We invite you to light a candle

Leader: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalm 16:7,8*

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People (together): 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.

Leader: 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.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

Leader: 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 *Phos hilaron (together)*

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.

Today's Appointed Psalm and Lessons

Psalm 33

- 1 Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous.
Praise befits the upright.**
- 2 Praise the Lord with the lyre;
make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**
- 3 Sing to him a new song;
play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.**
- 4 For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.**
- 5 He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**
- 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.**
- 7 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.**
- 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.**
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.**
- 10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.**
- 11 The counsel of the Lord stands for ever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.**
- 12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.**
- 13 The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.**
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—**
- 15 he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds.**
- 16 A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.**
- 17 The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.**

- 18 Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,**
- 19 to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.**
- 20 Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.**
- 21 Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.**
- 22 Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.**

The First Lesson: A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah 9: 18—10:4

For wickedness burned like a fire, consuming briars and thorns; it kindled the thickets of the forest, and they swirled upwards in a column of smoke.

So as not to crouch among the prisoners or fall among the slain? For all this, his anger has not turned away; his hand is stretched out still.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis, Luke 2:29-32 (together)*

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 Second Lesson: A Reading from the Second Letter of Peter 2: 10b-16

Especially those who indulge their flesh in depraved lust, and who despise authority.

Bold and willful, they are not afraid to slander the glorious ones, whereas angels, though greater in might and power, do not bring against them a slanderous judgement from the Lord. These people, however, are like irrational animals, mere creatures of instinct, born to be caught and killed. They slander what they do not understand, and when those creatures are destroyed, they also will be destroyed, suffering the penalty for doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their dissipation while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! They have left the straight road and have gone astray, following the road of Balaam son of Bosor, who loved the wages of doing wrong, but was rebuked for his own transgression; a speechless donkey spoke with a human voice and restrained the prophet's madness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 3: 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

****Reflections on the readings****

The Apostles' Creed *(together)*

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

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader and People (together)

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.

Suffrage 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 by your Holy Spirit.

(Leader) A Prayer for our Country: Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Leader) A Prayer 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.**

(Leader) A Prayer for Social Justice: Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Together) A Prayer for the Human Family: O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Leader: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your 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 your love's sake. **Amen.**

****Friends, who can we pray for tonight? Let us offer up our intercessions & thanksgivings****

- Prayers for the reposed souls of all who have died from Covid-19. We pray for their grieving families.
- Prayers for **Mother Rhoda, Fr. Roy Cole, Arthur Ellwell, Trevor Chase, Jennifer Sprosty, John Owens, Fr. Free, Nelly Johnson, Rev. Roslyn Dimerson, Maggie White, Violet Cheeks and all those on our prayer list** and for all those who may be suffering in mind, body and spirit.
- Prayers for all those who may feel alone, hopeless or in despair
- Prayers for all school students, teachers, principals, school staff and parents during these challenging times.
- Prayers for all who are without a job, source of income or food insecurity
- Prayers for our St. John's and Canterbury House family

The General Thanksgiving (together)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

(Leader) A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

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.

Leader: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21**

Have a restful night!