

Thursday – Year 2 Advent 1  
Evening Prayer

### **Opening Sentence**

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. Psalm 74:15,16

### **Versicle and Response**

O God, make speed to save us.

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.

### **Invitatory**

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.

### **Psalms**

#### **Psalm 18: 21 - 50**

21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord,  
and have not wickedly departed from my God.  
22 For all his ordinances were before me,  
and his statutes I did not put away from me.  
23 I was blameless before him,  
and I kept myself from guilt.  
24 Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness,  
according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

25 With the loyal you show yourself loyal;  
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;  
26 with the pure you show yourself pure;  
and with the crooked you show yourself perverse.  
27 For you deliver a humble people,  
but the haughty eyes you bring down.  
28 It is you who light my lamp;  
the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.  
29 By you I can crush a troop,  
and by my God I can leap over a wall.  
30 This God—his way is perfect;  
the promise of the Lord proves true;

he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.

31 For who is God except the Lord?

And who is a rock besides our God?—

32 the God who girded me with strength,  
and made my way safe.

33 He made my feet like the feet of a deer,  
and set me secure on the heights.

34 He trains my hands for war,  
so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

35 You have given me the shield of your salvation,  
and your right hand has supported me;  
your help\* has made me great.

36 You gave me a wide place for my steps under me,  
and my feet did not slip.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them;  
and did not turn back until they were consumed.

38 I struck them down, so that they were not able to rise;  
they fell under my feet.

39 For you girded me with strength for the battle;  
you made my assailants sink under me.

40 You made my enemies turn their backs to me,  
and those who hated me I destroyed.

41 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them;  
they cried to the Lord, but he did not answer them.

42 I beat them fine, like dust before the wind;  
I cast them out like the mire of the streets.

43 You delivered me from strife with the peoples;\*\_  
you made me head of the nations;  
people whom I had not known served me.

44 As soon as they heard of me they obeyed me;  
foreigners came cringing to me.

45 Foreigners lost heart,  
and came trembling out of their strongholds.

46 The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock,  
and exalted be the God of my salvation,

47 the God who gave me vengeance  
and subdued peoples under me;

48 who delivered me from my enemies;  
indeed, you exalted me above my adversaries;  
you delivered me from the violent.

49 For this I will extol you, O Lord, among the nations,  
and sing praises to your name.

50 Great triumphs he gives to his king,

and shows steadfast love to his anointed,  
to David and his descendants 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.

## **Reading**

### **2 Peter 3:11-18**

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12waiting for and hastening\* the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? 13But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

14 Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; 15and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him, 16speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. 17You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. 18But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.\*

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### **Canticle 17**

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 Apostle's Creed**

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 Lord be with you.  
And also with you.  
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**

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.

### **Collect of the Day: The First Sunday of Advent**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **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.

### **For Mission**

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.

### **Prayers and Intercessions**

Let us pray now for our own needs and those of others.

### **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.

### **Benediction**

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