

# Evening Prayer

August 22, 2023

## Tuesday after the Twelfth 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.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

**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

*All stand*

**Officiant**  
**People**

**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.

**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 124**

**BCP p. 781**

- <sup>1</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;  
<sup>2</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;  
<sup>3</sup> Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;  
<sup>4</sup> Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;  
<sup>5</sup> Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.  
<sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.  
<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.  
<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

**Psalm 125**

**BCP p. 781**

- <sup>1</sup> Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, \*  
which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.
- <sup>2</sup> The hills stand about Jerusalem; \*  
so does the LORD stand round about his people,  
from this time forth for evermore.
- <sup>3</sup> The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just, \*  
so that the just shall not put their hands to evil.
- <sup>4</sup> Show your goodness, O LORD, to those who are good \*  
and to those who are true of heart.
- <sup>5</sup> As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,  
the LORD will lead them away with the evildoers; \*  
but peace be upon Israel.

**Psalm 126**

**BCP p. 782**

- <sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- <sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations, \*  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- <sup>4</sup> The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- <sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- <sup>6</sup> Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- <sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

**Psalm 127**

**BCP p. 782**

- <sup>1</sup> Unless the LORD builds the house, \*  
their labor is in vain who build it.
- <sup>2</sup> Unless the LORD watches over the city, \*  
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.
- <sup>3</sup> It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; \*  
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,  
for he gives to his beloved sleep.
- <sup>4</sup> Children are a heritage from the LORD, \*  
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.
- <sup>5</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior \*  
are the children of one's youth.

<sup>6</sup>Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them! \*

he shall not be put to shame

when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

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

Judges 18:1-15

A Reading from the Book of Judges.

In those days there was no king in Israel. And in those days the tribe of the Danites was seeking for itself a territory to live in; for until then no territory among the tribes of Israel had been allotted to them. So the Danites sent five valiant men from the whole number of their clan, from Zorah and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land and to explore it; and they said to them, “Go, explore the land.” When they came to the hill country of Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they stayed there. While they were at Micah’s house, they recognized the voice of the young Levite; so they went over and asked him, “Who brought you here? What are you doing in this place? What is your business here?” He said to them, “Micah did such and such for me, and he hired me, and I have become his priest.” Then they said to him, “Inquire of God that we may know whether the mission we are undertaking will succeed.” The priest replied, “Go in peace. The mission you are on is under the eye of the LORD.”

The five men went on, and when they came to Laish, they observed the people who were there living securely, after the manner of the Sidonians, quiet and unsuspecting, lacking nothing on earth, and possessing wealth. Furthermore, they were far from the Sidonians and had no dealings with Aram. When they came to their kinsfolk at Zorah and Eshtaol, they said to them, “What do you report?” They said, “Come, let us go up against them; for we have seen the land, and it is very good. Will you do nothing? Do not be slow to go, but enter in and possess the land. When you go, you will come to an unsuspecting people. The land is broad—God has indeed given it into your hands—a place where there is no lack of anything on earth.” Six hundred men of the Danite clan, armed with weapons of war, set out from Zorah and Eshtaol, and went up and encamped at Kiriath-jearim in Judah. On this account that place is called Mahaneh-dan to this day; it is west of Kiriath-jearim. From there they passed on to the hill country of Ephraim, and came to the house of Micah.

Then the five men who had gone to spy out the land (that is, Laish) said to their comrades, “Do you know that in these buildings there are an ephod, teraphim, and an idol of cast metal? Now therefore consider what you will do.” So they turned in

that direction and came to the house of the young Levite, at the home of Micah, and greeted him.

**The Word of the Lord.**  
**Thanks be to God.**

**D. A Song of the Wilderness**                      *Isaiah 35:1-7,10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, \*  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
It shall blossom abundantly, \*  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord, \*  
the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen the weary hands, \*  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear! \*  
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."  
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, \*  
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.  
Then shall the lame leap like a deer, \*  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness \*  
and streams in the desert;  
The burning sand shall become a pool \*  
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.  
The ransomed of God shall return with singing, \*  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.  
Joy and gladness shall be theirs, \*  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**The Second Lesson**

*Acts 23:12-24*

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the morning the Jews joined in a conspiracy and bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they had killed Paul. There were more than forty who joined in this conspiracy. They went to the chief priests and elders and said, "We have strictly bound ourselves by an oath to taste no food until we have killed Paul. Now then, you and the council must notify the tribune to bring him down to you, on the pretext that you want to make a more thorough examination of his case.

And we are ready to do away with him before he arrives.” Now the son of Paul’s sister heard about the ambush; so he went and gained entrance to the barracks and told Paul. Paul called one of the centurions and said, “Take this young man to the tribune, for he has something to report to him.” So he took him, brought him to the tribune, and said, “The prisoner Paul called me and asked me to bring this young man to you; he has something to tell you.” The tribune took him by the hand, drew him aside privately, and asked, “What is it that you have to report to me?” He answered, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down to the council tomorrow, as though they were going to inquire more thoroughly into his case. But do not be persuaded by them, for more than forty of their men are lying in ambush for him. They have bound themselves by an oath neither to eat nor drink until they kill him. They are ready now and are waiting for your consent.” So the tribune dismissed the young man, ordering him, “Tell no one that you have informed me of this.” Then he summoned two of the centurions and said, “Get ready to leave by nine o’clock tonight for Caesarea with two hundred soldiers, seventy horsemen, and two hundred spearmen. Also provide mounts for Paul to ride, and take him safely to Felix the governor.”

**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 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***

***People***

***Officiant***

**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 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

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered



from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **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.**

*Here may be sung a hymn or anthem.*

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **A Prayer in Time of Great Sickness and Mortality**

O most mighty and merciful God, in this time of mortal sickness, we flee to you for comfort. Deliver us, we implore you, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; bring success to the measures used for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts to that heavenly wisdom which leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **For the Oppressed**

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Before the close of the Office one or both of the following may be used*

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.**

*Then may be said*

**Let us bless the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

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*