

# Evening Prayer

April 25, 2024

## SAINT MARK THE EVANGELIST

Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion, and turns deep darkness into the morning, and darkens the day into night; who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out upon the surface of the earth: The Lord is his name.

*Amos 5:8*

### 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 67**

**BCP p. 675**

- <sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to us and bless us, \*  
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- <sup>2</sup> Let your ways be known upon earth, \*  
your saving health among all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, \*  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; \*  
let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> The earth has brought forth her increase; \*  
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- <sup>7</sup> May God give us his blessing, \*  
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

### **Psalm 96**

**BCP p. 725**

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
 proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.  
<sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations \*  
 and his wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
 he is more to be feared than all gods.  
<sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
 but it is the LORD who made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup> Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
 Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!  
<sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.  
<sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
 bring offerings and come into his courts.  
<sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
 let the whole earth tremble before him.  
<sup>10</sup> Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \*  
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
 he will judge the peoples with equity."  
<sup>11</sup> Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.  
<sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
 before the LORD when he comes, \*  
 when he comes to judge the earth.  
<sup>13</sup> He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
 and the peoples with his truth.  
 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

Isa. 62:6-12

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

**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

2 Tim. 4:1-11

A Reading from the Second Letter to Timothy.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is

coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.

**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

<i>Officiant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Officiant</i>	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

<i>V.</i>	Show us your mercy, O Lord;
<i>R.</i>	And grant us your salvation.
<i>V.</i>	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.

### **Saint Mark the Evangelist**

Almighty God, by the hand of Mark the evangelist you have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: We thank you for this witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

### **A Collect 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.**

### **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*

*Then may be said*

**Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

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*

### **Saint Mark the Evangelist**

*A disciple of Jesus, named Mark, appears in several places in the New Testament. If all references to Mark can be accepted as referring to the same person, we learn that he was the son of a woman who owned a house in Jerusalem. Church*



*tradition suggests that Mark may have been the young man who fled naked when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul refers to “Mark the cousin of Barnabas,” who was with him in his imprisonment. Mark set out with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but he turned back for reasons which failed to satisfy Paul (Acts 15:36– 40). When another journey was planned, Paul refused to have Mark with him. Instead, Mark went with Barnabas to Cyprus. The breach between Paul and Mark was later healed, and Mark became one of Paul’s companions in Rome, as well as a close friend of Peter’s.*

*An early tradition recorded by Papias, Bishop of Hieropolis in Asia Minor at the beginning of the second century, names Mark as the author of the Gospel bearing his name, drawing his information from the teachings of Peter. In his First Letter, Peter refers to “my son Mark,” which shows a close relationship between the two men (1 Peter 5:13).*

*The Church of Alexandria in Egypt claimed Mark as its first bishop and most illustrious martyr, and the great Church of St. Mark in Venice commemorates the disciple who progressed from turning back while on a missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas to proclaiming in his Gospel Jesus of Nazareth as Son of God, and bearing witness to that faith in his later life as friend and companion to the apostles Peter and Paul.*