

EVENING PRAYER – MARCH 25, 2024

All Stand

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

**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 following, or some other suitable hymn, or an Invitatory psalm, may be sung or said

PHOS HILARON

**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.**

Then follows

PSALM 69:1-23

Save me, O God,*

for the waters have risen up to my neck.

I am sinking in deep mire,*

and there is no firm ground for my feet.

I have come into deep waters,*

and the torrent washes over me.

I have grown weary with my crying; my throat is inflamed;*

my eyes have failed from looking for my God.

Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;

my lying foes would destroy me are mighty.*

Must I then give back what I never stole?

O God, you know my foolishness,*

and my faults are not hidden from you.

Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, Lord God of hosts;*

let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me, O God of Israel.

Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach,*

and shame has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my own kindred,*

an alien to my mother's children.

Zeal for your house has eaten me up;*

the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

I humbled myself with fasting,*
 but that was turned to my reproach.
 I put on sack-cloth also,*
 and became a byword among them.
 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,*
 and the drunkards make songs about me.
 But as for me, this is my prayer to you,*
 at the time you have set, O Lord.
 "In your great mercy, O God,*
 answer me with your unfailing help.
 Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;*
 let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.
 Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;*
 do not let the Pit shut its mouth upon me.
 Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind,*
 in your great compassion, turn to me."
 "Hide not your face from your servant;*
 be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.
 Draw near to me and redeem me;*
 because of my enemies deliver me.
 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor;*
 my adversaries are all in your sight.
 Reproach has broken my heart, and it cannot be healed;*
 I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I could find no one.
 They gave me gall to eat,*
 and when I was thirsty, they gave me vinegar to drink.

**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 FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 1:1-7

Reader A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is in Corinth, together with all the saints throughout Achaia: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

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

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,*
he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,*
born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies,*
from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers*
and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,*
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,*
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation*
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
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

Officiant and People say together, all standing

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.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

The people say together the following

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

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;
People **And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
People **Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
People **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant Lord, keep this nation under your care;
People **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant Let your way be known upon earth;
People **Your saving health among all nations.**

Officiant Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
People **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant Create in us clean hearts, O God;
People **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

A PRAYER 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.**

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

The Officiant and People pray together the following

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Officiant concludes with the following grace

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.**