

# MORNING PRAYER

THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO THE VIRGIN MARY

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. *Revelation 21:3*

## Confession of Sin

*The Officiant says to the people*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*The Officiant while continuing to kneel alone says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

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 Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:  
**O come, let us adore him.**

**Venite** *Psalm 95:1-7*

**O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \***  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \***  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

**For the Lord is a great God, \***  
and a great King above all gods.  
**In his hand are the corners of the earth, \***  
and the strength of the hills is his also.  
**The sea is his, and he made it, \***  
and his hands prepared the dry land.

**O come, let us worship and fall down, \***  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
**For he is the Lord our God, \***  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \***  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
**For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \***  
and with righteousness to judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:  
**O come, let us adore him.**

**Psalm 85** *Benedixisti, Domine*

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*  
**you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.**  
2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*  
**and blotted out all their sins.**  
3 You have withdrawn all your fury \*  
**and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.**  
4 Restore us then, O God our Savior; \*  
**let your anger depart from us.**  
5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? \*  
**will you prolong your anger from age to age?**

6 Will you not give us life again, \*  
**that your people may rejoice in you?**  
7 Show us your mercy, O Lord, \*  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*  
**for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.**  
9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*  
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**  
10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*  
**righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**  
11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*  
**and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**  
12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*  
**and our land will yield its increase.**  
13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*  
**and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

## **Psalm 86** *Inclina, Domine*

1 Bow down your ear, O Lord, and answer me, \*  
**for I am poor and in misery.**  
2 Keep watch over my life, for I am faithful; \*  
**save your servant who puts his trust in you.**  
3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; \*  
**I call upon you all the day long.**  
4 Gladden the soul of your servant, \*  
**for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**  
5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, \*  
**and great is your love toward all who call upon you.**  
6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer, \*  
**and attend to the voice of my supplications.**  
7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon you, \*  
**for you will answer me.**  
8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, \*  
**nor anything like your works.**  
9 All nations you have made will come and worship you, O Lord, \*  
**and glorify your Name.**  
10 For you are great; you do wondrous things; \*  
**and you alone are God.**  
11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; \*  
**knit my heart to you that I may fear your Name.**  
12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, \*  
**and glorify your Name for evermore.**

13 For great is your love toward me; \*

**you have delivered me from the nethermost Pit.**

14 The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent men seeks my life; \*

**they have not set you before their eyes.**

15 But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, \*

**slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.**

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; \*

**give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.**

17 Show me a sign of your favor,

so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; \*

**because you, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

**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 READINGS**

### **FIRST READING**

#### **Isaiah 52:7-12**

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'  
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing,  
you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the LORD has comforted his people,  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there!  
Touch no unclean thing;  
go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves,  
you who carry the vessels of the LORD.  
For you shall not go out in haste,  
and you shall not go in flight;  
for the LORD will go before you,  
and the God of Israel will be your rearguard.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**The Song of Moses**    *Cantemus Domino*    *Exodus 15:1-6, 11-13, 17-18*

I will sing to the Lord, for he is lofty and uplifted; \*  
the horse and its rider has he hurled into the sea.  
The Lord is my strength and my refuge; \*  
the Lord has become my Savior.  
This is my God and I will praise him, \*  
the God of my people and I will exalt him.  
The Lord is a mighty warrior; \*  
Yahweh is his Name.  
The chariots of Pharaoh and his army has he hurled into the sea; \*  
the finest of those who bear armor have been drowned in the Red Sea.  
The fathomless deep has overwhelmed them; \*  
they sank into the depths like a stone.  
Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in might; \*  
your right hand, O Lord, has overthrown the enemy.  
Who can be compared with you, O Lord, among the gods? \*  
who is like you, glorious in holiness,  
awesome in renown, and worker of wonders?  
You stretched forth your right hand; \*  
the earth swallowed them up.  
With your constant love you led the people you redeemed; \*  
with your might you brought them in safety to your holy dwelling.  
You will bring them in and plant them \*  
on the mount of your possession,  
The resting-place you have made for yourself, O Lord, \*  
the sanctuary, O Lord, that your hand has established.  
The Lord shall reign \*  
for ever and 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.

## SECOND READING

### Hebrews 2:5-10

Now God<sup>\*</sup> did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them,<sup>\*</sup>  
or mortals, that you care for them?’<sup>\*</sup>

You have made them for a little while lower<sup>\*</sup> than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honour,<sup>\*</sup>  
subjecting all things under their feet.’

Now in subjecting all things to them, God<sup>\*</sup> left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower<sup>\*</sup> than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God<sup>\*</sup> he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God,<sup>\*</sup> for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**The Second Song of Isaiah**

*Quaerite Dominum*

*Isaiah 55:6-11*

**Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; \***

**call upon him when he draws near.**

**Let the wicked forsake their ways \***

**and the evil ones their thoughts;**

**And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, \***

**and to our God, for he will richly pardon.**

**For my thoughts are not your thoughts, \***

**nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.**

**For as the heavens are higher than the earth, \***

**so are my ways higher than your ways,**

**and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**For as rain and snow fall from the heavens \***

**and return not again, but water the earth,**

**Bringing forth life and giving growth, \***

**seed for sowing and bread for eating,**

**So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; \***

**it will not return to me empty;**

**But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, \***

**and prosper in that for which I sent it.**

**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**

## Gospel

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### Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'\* But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?''\* The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born\* will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**A Song of Penitence**    *Kyrie Pantokrator*        *Prayer of Manasseh 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-15*

*Especially suitable in Lent, and on other penitential occasions. (Read in unison while kneeling.)*

**O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, \***  
    **God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,**  
    **and of all their righteous offspring:**  
**You made the heavens and the earth, \***  
    **with all their vast array.**  
**All things quake with fear at your presence; \***  
    **they tremble because of your power.**  
**But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; \***  
    **it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.**  
**O Lord, you are full of compassion, \***  
    **long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.**  
**You hold back your hand; \***  
    **you do not punish as we deserve.**  
**In your great goodness, Lord,**  
**you have promised forgiveness to sinners, \***  
    **that they may repent of their sin and be saved.**

And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, \*  
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.  
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, \*  
and I know my wickedness only too well.  
Therefore I make this prayer to you: \*  
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.  
Do not let me perish in my sin, \*  
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.  
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, \*  
and in me you will show forth your goodness.  
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,  
in accordance with your great mercy, \*  
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.  
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, \*  
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.  
*And with thy spirit.*

Let us pray.



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

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
**R. And grant us thy salvation.**  
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
**R. And make thy chosen people joyful.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**R. For only in thee can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
**R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;  
**R. Thy 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.**

*Then follow one or more of the Collects and the prayer for mission.*

### *The Collect of the Day*

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that we who have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *A Collect for Grace*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that we, being ordered by thy governance, may do always what is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *The Prayer for Mission*

Lord Jesus Christ, who didst stretch out thine arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of thy saving embrace: So clothe us in thy Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know thee to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of thy Name. **Amen**

*Here may be sung a hymn or anthem.*

### *Intercessions and thanksgivings.*

For the concerns of people in this register, the poor, sick, hungry and abused. Please be with our nation and our world. Please especially be with Alex, Dallas, H.D., Patsey, Betty, Jack, Dan, Marsha, MaryAnn, Bob, Dennis, Sally, Carol, Hal, Jane, Susan and everyone on our Daughters of the King prayer list.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve thy sick servants, and give thy power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those (*or N., or NN.*) for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in thy loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### *The General Thanksgiving*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.  
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen**

Let us bless the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

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*

**Morning Prayer**  
from  
The Book of Common Prayer  
of The Episcopal Church  
with biographies for commemorations from  
*A Great Cloud of Witnesses* (2015),  
and additional prayers in accordance with  
The Rule, Sanctoral, Customary &  
Music for the Daily Office  
of  
The Brotherhood of St. Gregory

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