

# Morning Prayer Rite Two – Thursday December 24, 2020

*Welcome – From Paula's Office*

*Officiant:* In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
*Isaiah 40:3*

## Confession of Sin

*Officiant:* Let us confess our sins against God and our  
neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People*

**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.**

*Officiant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant:* Lord, Open our lips,

*People:* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

*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. Alleliua.**

*Officiant:* Our King and Savior now draws near:  
Come let us adore him.

*Jubilate Psalm 100*

*Officiant & People:*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*  
serve the Lord with gladness  
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*  
he himself has made us, and we are his;  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;  
go into his courts with praise; \*  
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;  
his mercy is everlasting; \*  
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

*Officiant:* Our King and Savior now draws near:  
Come let us adore him.

## The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

### Psalm 45 *Eructavit cor meum*

1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;  
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; \*  
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.

2 You are the fairest of men; \*  
grace flows from your lips,  
because God has blessed you for ever.

3 Strap your sword upon your thigh, O mighty warrior, \*  
in your pride and in your majesty.

4 Ride out and conquer in the cause of truth \*  
and for the sake of justice.

5 Your right hand will show you marvelous things; \*  
your arrows are very sharp, O mighty warrior.

6 The peoples are falling at your feet, \*  
and the king's enemies are losing heart.

7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, \*  
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;  
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.

8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you \*  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, \*  
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.

10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; \*  
on your right hand is the queen,  
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

11 "Hear, O daughter; consider and listen closely; \*  
forget your people and your father's house.

12 The king will have pleasure in your beauty; \*  
he is your master; therefore do him honor.

13 The people of Tyre are here with a gift; \*  
the rich among the people seek your favor."

14 All glorious is the princess as she enters; \*  
her gown is cloth-of-gold.

15 In embroidered apparel she is brought to the king; \*  
after her the bridesmaids follow in procession.

16 With joy and gladness they are brought, \*  
and enter into the palace of the king.

17 "In place of fathers, O king, you shall have sons; \*  
you shall make them princes over all the earth.

18 I will make your name to be remembered  
from one generation to another; \*  
therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever."

### **Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium***

1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

4 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her;  
she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.

7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

8 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

9 Come now and look upon the works of the Lord, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \*  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.

11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth."

12 The Lord of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

**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

### *Isaiah 29:13-24*

The Lord said:

Because these people draw near with their mouths  
and honour me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me,  
and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote;  
so I will again do  
amazing things with this people,  
shocking and amazing.

The wisdom of their wise shall perish,  
and the discernment of the discerning shall be hidden.

Ha! You who hide a plan too deep for the Lord,  
whose deeds are in the dark,  
and who say, 'Who sees us? Who knows us?'

You turn things upside down!

Shall the potter be regarded as the clay?

Shall the thing made say of its maker,

'He did not make me';

or the thing formed say of the one who formed it,

'He has no understanding'?

Shall not Lebanon in a very little while

become a fruitful field,

and the fruitful field be regarded as a forest?

On that day the deaf shall hear

the words of a scroll,  
and out of their gloom and darkness  
the eyes of the blind shall see.  
The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord,  
and the neediest people shall exult in the Holy One of Israel.  
For the tyrant shall be no more,  
and the scoffer shall cease to be;  
all those alert to do evil shall be cut off—  
those who cause a person to lose a lawsuit,  
who set a trap for the arbiter in the gate,  
and without grounds deny justice to the one in the right.  
Therefore thus says the Lord, who redeemed Abraham, concerning  
the house of Jacob:  
No longer shall Jacob be ashamed,  
no longer shall his face grow pale.  
For when he sees his children,  
the work of my hands, in his midst,  
they will sanctify my name;  
they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob,  
and will stand in awe of the God of Israel.  
And those who err in spirit will come to understanding,  
and those who grumble will accept instruction.

*Officiant:*           The Word of the Lord

*People:*             **Thanks be to God**

## A Canticle Shall be Read

### *Canticle 16, The Song of Zechariah, Benedictus Dominus Deus*

*Luke 1:68-79*

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 Gospel – Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be\* a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary\* said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’  
And Mary remained with her for about three months and then  
returned to her home.

*Officiant:* The Word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together*

**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* The Lord be with you

*People* And also with you

*Officiant* 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 B

**V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;**

**R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.**

**V. Day by day we bless you;**

**R. We praise your Name for ever.**

**V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;**

**R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

**V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;**

**R. For we put our trust in you.**

**V. In you, Lord, is our hope;**  
**R. And we shall never hope in vain.**

**The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collects**

*The Coronavirus Collect*

Gracious God, giver of life and health: comfort, heal and restore all who are suffering from the coronavirus. Give your healing power to all the doctors and nurses who are ministering to our needs. Bless all who labor in essential work and services so the necessities of life are available. May all of us be strengthened when we feel weak or despondent, anxious or afraid. Help us practice safety for ourselves and others. Inspire us to reach out with the power of healing love. We pray to be faithful and hopeful through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Collect for the Renewal of Life*

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*Let us pray now for the intentions on our hearts.*

## *The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable 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 pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

## *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.**

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

*All*

**May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.***

*Romans 15:13*