

# Evening Prayer

Thursday before Easter III  
Thursday, April 15, 2021

## The Invitatory and Psalter

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 forever. Amen.**

Alleluia.

## **O Gracious Light** *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 praised, 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 4** *Cum invocarem*

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; \*  
**you set me free when I am hard-pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.**

“You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; \*  
**how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?”**

Know that the LORD does wonders for the faithful; \*  
**when I call upon the LORD, he will hear me.**

Tremble, then, and do not sin; \*  
**speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.**

Offer the appointed sacrifices \*  
**and put your trust in the LORD.**

Many are saying,

“Oh, that we might see better times!” \*

**Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD.**

You have put gladness in my heart, \*

**more than when grain and wine and oil increase.**

I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; \*

**for only you, LORD, make me dwell in safety.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## The Lessons

### First Lesson *Daniel 9:1–19 (NRSV)*

<sup>1</sup>In the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus, by birth a Mede, who became king over the realm of the Chaldeans— <sup>2</sup>in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to the prophet Jeremiah, must be fulfilled for the devastation of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

<sup>3</sup>Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. <sup>4</sup>I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying,

“Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments, <sup>5</sup>we have sinned and done wrong, acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and ordinances. <sup>6</sup>We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

<sup>7</sup>“Righteousness is on your side, O Lord, but open shame, as at this day, falls on us, the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you. <sup>8</sup>Open shame, O LORD, falls on us, our kings, our officials, and our ancestors, because we have sinned against you. <sup>9</sup>To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him, <sup>10</sup>and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

<sup>11</sup>“All Israel has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. So the curse and the oath written in the law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against you. <sup>12</sup>He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers, by bringing upon us a calamity so great that what has been done against Jerusalem has never before been done under the whole heaven. <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us. We did not entreat the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and reflecting on his fidelity. <sup>14</sup>So the LORD kept watch over this calamity until he brought it upon us. Indeed, the LORD our God is right in all that he has done; for we have disobeyed his voice.

<sup>15</sup>“And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and made your name renowned even to this day—we have sinned, we have

done wickedly. <sup>16</sup>O Lord, in view of all your righteous acts, let your anger and wrath, we pray, turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy mountain; because of our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors, Jerusalem and your people have become a disgrace among all our neighbors. <sup>17</sup>Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, and for your own sake, Lord, let your face shine upon your desolated sanctuary. <sup>18</sup>Incline your ear, O my God, and hear. Open your eyes and look at our desolation and the city that bears your name. We do not present our supplication before you on the ground of our righteousness, but on the ground of your great mercies. <sup>19</sup>O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and act and do not delay! For your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people bear your name!”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Lesson**    *1 John 2:18–25 (NRSV)*

<sup>18</sup>Children, it is the last hour! As you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. From this we know that it is the last hour. <sup>19</sup>They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us. But by going out they made it plain that none of them belongs to us. <sup>20</sup>But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. <sup>21</sup>I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. <sup>22</sup>Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. <sup>23</sup>No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. <sup>24</sup>Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. <sup>25</sup>And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Song of Mary**    *Magnificat*

*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 forever. Amen.

## The Prayers

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
And grant us your salvation.  
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
Let your people sing with joy.  
Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
For only in you can we live in safety.  
Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
Let your way be known upon earth;  
Your saving health among all nations.  
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.

### *The Collect of the Day*

O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread:  
Open the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; who lives  
and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(For the ELW Prayer of the Day, see p. 33, Third Sunday of Easter, Year B.)*

*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.**

**O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Other intercessions and thanksgivings may follow. [\(Include your petitions.\)](#)*

*The General Thanksgiving*

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 ourselves 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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

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*

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