

## **Evening Prayer Rite I**

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

*John 8:12*

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 Priest alone stands and says*

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

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*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. 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 thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art 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 world

**The Psalm or Psalms Appointed**

**119**

73 Your hands have made me and fashioned me; \*  
give me understanding, that I may learn your commandments.

74 Those who fear you will be glad when they see me, \*  
because I trust in your word.

75 I know, O Lord, that your judgments are right \*  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.

76 Let your loving-kindness be my comfort, \*  
as you have promised to your servant.

77 Let your compassion come to me, that I may live, \*  
for your law is my delight.

78 Let the arrogant be put to shame, for they wrong me with lies; \*  
but I will meditate on your commandments.

79 Let those who fear you turn to me, \*  
and also those who know your decrees.

80 Let my heart be sound in your statutes, \*  
that I may not be put to shame.

81 My soul has longed for your salvation; \*  
I have put my hope in your word.

82 My eyes have failed from watching for your promise, \*  
and I say, "When will you comfort me?"

83 I have become like a leather flask in the smoke, \*  
but I have not forgotten your statutes.

84 How much longer must I wait? \*  
when will you give judgment against those who persecute me?

85 The proud have dug pits for me; \*  
they do not keep your law.

86 All your commandments are true; \*  
help me, for they persecute me with lies.

87 They had almost made an end of me on earth, \*  
but I have not forsaken your commandments.

88 In your loving-kindness, revive me, \*  
that I may keep the decrees of your mouth.

89 O Lord, your word is everlasting; \*  
it stands firm in the heavens.

90 Your faithfulness remains from one generation to another; \*  
you established the earth, and it abides.

91 By your decree these continue to this day, \*  
for all things are your servants.

92 If my delight had not been in your law, \*  
I should have perished in my affliction.

93 I will never forget your commandments, \*  
because by them you give me life.

94 I am yours; oh, that you would save me! \*  
for I study your commandments.

95 Though the wicked lie in wait for me to destroy me, \*  
I will apply my mind to your decrees.

96 I see that all things come to an end, \*  
but your commandment has no bounds.

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.

## A Reading From the Book of Nehemiah 13:4-22

4 Now before this, the priest Eliashib, who was appointed over the chambers of the house of our God, and who was related to Tobiah, prepared for Tobiah a large room where they had previously put the grain-offering, the frankincense, the vessels, and the tithes of grain, wine, and oil, which were given by commandment to the Levites, singers, and gatekeepers, and the contributions for the priests. 5 While this was taking place I was not in Jerusalem, for in the thirty-second year of King Artaxerxes of Babylon I went to the king. After some time I asked leave of the king 6 and returned to Jerusalem. I then discovered the wrong that Eliashib had done on behalf of Tobiah, preparing a room for him in the courts of the house of God. 7 And I was very angry, and I threw all the household furniture of Tobiah out of the room. 8 Then I gave orders and they cleansed the chambers, and I brought back the vessels of the house of God, with the grain-offering and the frankincense.

10 I also found out that the portions of the Levites had not been given to them; so that the Levites and the singers, who had conducted the service, had gone back to their fields. 11 So I remonstrated with the officials and said, ‘Why is the house of God forsaken?’ And I gathered them together and set them in their stations. 12 Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain, wine, and oil into the storehouses. 13 And I appointed as treasurers over the storehouses the priest Shelemiah, the scribe Zadok, and Pedaiah of the Levites, and as their assistant Hanan son of Zaccur son of Mattaniah, for they were considered faithful; and their duty was to distribute to their associates. 14 Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and do not wipe out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God and for his service.

15 In those days I saw in Judah people treading wine presses on the sabbath, and bringing in heaps of grain and loading them on donkeys; and also wine, grapes, figs, and all kinds of burdens, which they brought

into Jerusalem on the sabbath day; and I warned them at that time against selling food. <sup>16</sup>Tyrians also, who lived in the city, brought in fish and all kinds of merchandise and sold them on the sabbath to the people of Judah, and in Jerusalem. <sup>17</sup>Then I remonstrated with the nobles of Judah and said to them, ‘What is this evil thing that you are doing, profaning the sabbath day? <sup>18</sup>Did not your ancestors act in this way, and did not our God bring all this disaster on us and on this city? Yet you bring more wrath on Israel by profaning the sabbath.’

19 When it began to be dark at the gates of Jerusalem before the sabbath, I commanded that the doors should be shut and gave orders that they should not be opened until after the sabbath. And I set some of my servants over the gates, to prevent any burden from being brought in on the sabbath day. <sup>20</sup>Then the merchants and sellers of all kinds of merchandise spent the night outside Jerusalem once or twice. <sup>21</sup>But I warned them and said to them, ‘Why do you spend the night in front of the wall? If you do so again, I will lay hands on you.’ From that time on they did not come on the sabbath. <sup>22</sup>And I commanded the Levites that they should purify themselves and come and guard the gates, to keep the sabbath day holy. Remember this also in my favour, O my God, and spare me according to the greatness of your steadfast love.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## 1 A Song of Creation *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* *Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65*

*This Canticle may be shortened by omitting section II or III*

### *I Invocation*

O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; \*  
    praise him and magnify him for ever.  
O ye angels of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; \*  
    praise him and magnify him 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.

#### IV The People of God

O ye people of God, bless ye the Lord; \*  
    O ye priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord;  
O ye servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord; \*  
    praise him and magnify him for ever.

O ye spirits and souls of the righteous, bless ye the Lord; \*  
    O ye holy and humble men of heart, bless ye the Lord.  
Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; \*  
    praise him and magnify him for ever.

#### A Reading From the Book of Revelation 12:1-12

##### 12

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.<sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth.<sup>3</sup> Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads.<sup>4</sup> His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born.<sup>5</sup> And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule\* all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne;<sup>6</sup> and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place

prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

7 And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup>but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,  
‘Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Messiah,<sup>\*</sup>  
for the accuser of our comrades<sup>\*</sup> has been thrown down,  
who accuses them day and night before our God.

11 But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.

12 Rejoice then, you heavens  
and those who dwell in them!  
But woe to the earth and the sea,  
for the devil has come down to you  
with great wrath,  
because he knows that his time is short!'

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

*Officiant and People together:*

**2 A Song of Praise**   *Benedictus es, Domine*  
*Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34*

Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers; \*  
    praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou for the Name of thy Majesty; \*  
    praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou in the temple of thy holiness; \*  
    praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou that beholdest the depths,  
and dwellest between the Cherubim; \*  
    praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou on the glorious throne of thy kingdom; \*  
    praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou in the firmament of heaven; \*  
    praised and exalted above all for ever.  
Blessed art thou, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
    praised and exalted above all 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.

### **A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew 13:53-58**

<sup>53</sup>When Jesus had finished these parables, he left that place. <sup>54</sup>He came to his home town and began to teach the people\* in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? <sup>55</sup>Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all this?’ <sup>57</sup>And they took offence at him. But Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour except in their own country and in their own house.’ <sup>58</sup>And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **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**

*Officiant:* The Lord be with you.

*People;* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant and People*

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.

## B

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,  
We entreat thee, O Lord.

That thy holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That there may be peace to thy Church and to the whole world,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That we may depart this life in thy faith and fear, and not be condemned  
before the great judgment seat of Christ,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

That we may be bound together by thy Holy Spirit in the communion of  
Saint Mark and all thy saints, entrusting one another and all our life to  
Christ,  
*We entreat thee, O Lord.*

## *The Collect of the Day*

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your  
faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that  
we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly

promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

### ***A Collect for Peace***

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us, thy humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### ***A Collect for Aid against Perils***

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.  
*Amen.*

### ***A Collect for Protection***

O God, who art 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 thee for the timely blessings of the day, and humbly beseech thy merciful protection all the night. Bring us, we pray thee, in safety to the morning hours; through him who died for us and rose again, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *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 thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. *Amen*

### ***A Prayer for Mission***

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

### ***For Peace***

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **For the Future of the Human Race**

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### ***A Prayer for the Departed***

For those we love but see no longer, let us pray:

*Silence*

Remember thy servants, O Lord, according to the favor which thou bearest unto thy people; and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, they may go from strength to

strength in the life of perfect service in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### ***In the Evening***

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen.*

### ***The General Thanksgiving***

#### *Officiant and People*

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 Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* 2  
*Corinthians 13:14*