

THE ORDER FOR
MORNING PRAYER

On the

Third Sunday in Advent

December 13th, 2020 at 11 a.m.

Where this is said privately, a layman or laywoman may take the parts marked “Minister”, but the Absolution is said by a priest alone, and must be omitted in his absence.

If you wish to abbreviate this for the sake of young children who are taking part, you may read the General Confession, one of the psalms or lessons, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the short versicles and responses, the three Collects and the General Thanksgiving.

Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts;
show the light of thy countenance,
and we shall be whole.

Psalm 80

Hymn #6 – Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,
Thy people's everlasting light,
O Christ, thou Savior of us all,
We pray thee, hear us when they call.

To thee the travail deep was known,
That made the whole creation groan
Till thou, Redeemer, shouldst free
Thine own in glorious liberty

When the old world drew on toward night,
Thou cam'st, not in splendor bright
As monarch, but the humble child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At whose great name of Jesus, now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
And things celestial Thee shall own,
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.

Come in thy holy might, we pray;
Redeem us for eternal day
From every power of darkness, when
Thou judgest all the sons of men.

Come in thy holy might, we pray:
To judge and doom the quick and dead,
Preserve us, while we dwell below,
From every insult of the foe.

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Laud, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen.

Tune: CONDITOR ALME, Sarum Plainsong, Mode IV

Words: Latin, 9th c; Hymnal Version, 1940, after J. M. Neale.

PREPARING IN PENITENCE.

Repent ye, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. *St. Matt.* iii. 2.
Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah* xl. 3.

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us, in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought, at all times, humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying—

A General Confession (*said by all*).

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; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, 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 Declaration of Absolution, or Remission of Sins.

To be made by the Priest alone, standing; the People still kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and ✠ absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the absence of a Priest, this prayer may be said by a minister or layman, all kneeling:

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, and hast promised to absolve all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe thy holy Gospel; of thy mercy we beseech thee to grant us true repentance, and thy Holy Spirit, that those things may please thee which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to thine eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Opening Versicles & Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

PRAISE OF GOD'S GLORY.

Psalm 95. *Venite, exultemus.*

Antiphon (said by all): Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O Come, let
us adore him.

O COME, let us sing unto the LORD;
* let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving;
* and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

3 For the LORD is a great God;
* and a great King above all gods.

4 In his hand are all the corners of the earth;
* and the strength of the hills is his also.

5 The sea is his, and he made it;
* and his hands prepared the dry land.

6 O come, let us worship and fall down,
* and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7 For he is the Lord our God;
* and we are the people of his pasture,
and the sheep of his hand.

8 To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts
* as in the provocation,
and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

9 When your fathers tempted me,
* proved me, and saw my works.

10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said,
* It is a people that do err in their hearts,
for they have not known my ways:

11 Unto whom I sware in my wrath,
* that they should not enter into my rest.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son,
* and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
* world without end. Amen.

Antiphon (said by all): Our King and Savior draweth nigh: O Come, let us adore him.

Psalm 80. *Qui regis Israel.*

HEAR, O thou Shepherd of Israel,
thou that leadest Joseph like a flock;
* show thyself also,
thou that sittest upon the Cherubim.

2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
* stir up thy strength,
and come and help us.

3 Turn us again, O God;
* show the light of thy countenance,
and we shall be whole.

4 O LORD God of hosts,
* how long wilt thou be angry
with thy people that prayeth?

5 Thou feedest them with the bread of tears,
* and givest them plenteousness of tears to drink.

- 6 Thou hast made us a very strife unto our neighbours,
* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Turn us again, thou God of hosts;
* show the light of thy countenance,
and we shall be whole.
- 8 Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt;
* thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it.
- 9 Thou madest room for it;
* and when it had taken root, it filled the land.
- 10 The hills were covered with the shadow of it,
* and the boughs thereof were like the goodly cedar-trees.
- 11 She stretched out her branches unto the sea,
* and her boughs unto the River.
- 12 Why hast thou then broken down her hedge,
* that all they that go by pluck off her grapes?
- 13 The wild boar out of the wood doth root it up,
* and the wild beasts of the field devour it.
- 14 Turn thee again, thou God of hosts,
look down from heaven,
* behold, and visit this vine;
- 15 And the place of the vineyard that thy right hand hath planted,
* and the branch that thou madest so strong for thyself.
- 16 It is burnt with fire, and cut down;
* and they shall perish
at the rebuke of thy countenance.
- 17 Let thy hand be upon the man of thy right hand,
* and upon the son of man,
whom thou madest so strong for thine own self.

18 And so will not we go back from thee:

* O let us live, and we shall call upon thy Name.

19 Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts;

* show the light of thy countenance,
and we shall be whole.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35

Here beginneth the 35th chapter of the book of Isaiah the Prophet. *The kingdom of Christ foreshown.*

In those days; said Isaiah the prophet:

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them;
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

² It shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice even with joy and singing:
the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it,
the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,
they shall see the glory of the LORD,
and the excellency of our God.

³ Strengthen ye the weak hands,
and confirm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to them that are of a fearful heart,
Be strong, fear not:
behold, your God will come with vengeance,
even God with a recompence;
he will come and save you.

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

⁶ Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,

and the tongue of the dumb sing:
for in the wilderness shall waters break out,
and streams in the desert.
7 And the parched ground shall become a pool,
and the thirsty land springs of water:
in the habitation of dragons, where each lay,
shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

8 And an highway shall be there, and a way,
and it shall be called The way of holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it;
but it shall be for those:
the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

9 No lion shall be there,
nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon,
it shall not be found there;
but the redeemed shall walk there:

10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with songs
and everlasting joy upon their heads:
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Canticle: *Rorate Coeli Desuper (Advent Prose).*

All say:

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth
righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.*

Minister:

Be not very angry, O Lord,
neither remember our iniquity for ever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness,
Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house,

where our fathers praised thee.

All say:

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

Minister:

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing,
and we all do fade as a leaf:
our iniquities, like the wind,
have taken us away;
thou hast hid thy face from us:
and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

All say:

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

Minister:

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord,
and my servant whom I have chosen;
that ye may know me and believe me:
I, even I, am the Lord,
and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver
out of my hand.

All say:

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.

Minister:

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people,
my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud
thy transgressions:
fear not for I will save thee:

for I am the Lord thy god,
the holy one of Israel, thy Redeemer.

The Second lesson: 1 Corinthians 4:1 & St. Matthew 11:5

Here beginneth the 4th chapter of the First Epistle of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians, beginning at the 1st verse. *The accountability of ministers of Christ.*

BRETHREN: Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. For I know nothing by my self; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Here beginneth the 11th chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew beginning at the 5th verse. *The works of Christ, and the ministry of John the Forerunner of Christ.*

AT that time: when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in me. And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

Benedictus. *St. Luke i. 68.*

Thanksgiving for our redemption in Christ

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel; *
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us, *
in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets, *
which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies, *
and from the hand of all that hate us.

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, *
and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, *
that he would give us;

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies *
might serve him without fear;

In holiness and righteousness before him, *
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: *
for thou shalt go. before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people *
for the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God; *
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S GRACE.

The Apostles' Creed (said be all)

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.

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer (said by all)

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. Amen.

Minister. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Answer. And grant us thy salvation.

Minister. O Lord, save the State.
Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Minister. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.
Answer. And make thy chosen people joyful.
Minister. O Lord, save thy people.
Answer. And bless thine inheritance.
Minister. Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Answer. For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.
Minister. O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Answer. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects of the Day

O LORD Jesus Christ, who at thy first coming didst send thy messenger to prepare thy way before thee; Grant that the ministers and stewards of thy mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready thy way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at thy second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in thy sight, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. *Amen.*

The 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 defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The 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 all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for all in Civil Authority.

O LORD our Governor, whose glory is in all the world; We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, and to all in Authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness; and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Or this:

ALMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite; Have mercy upon this whole land; and so rule the hearts of thy servants THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, *The Governor of this State*, and all others in authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek thy honour and glory; and that we and all the People, duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honour them, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Clergy and People.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, and other Clergy, and upon the Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of

thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for all Conditions of Men.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; [**especially those for whom our prayers are desired;*] that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

* This may be said when any desire the prayers of the Congregation.

In Time of Great Sickness and Mortality.

O MOST mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Faithful Departed

Of your charity I bid your prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed:

Rest ☩ eternal grant unto them, O Lord;
Answer. and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom & the Grace.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

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 Cor. xiii. 14.)

The Address

The Offering

While we have time, let us do good unto all men; and especially unto them that are of the household of faith. *Gal. vi. 10.*

At the presentation of alms and oblations, all may say:

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee. *Amen.*

A General Thanksgiving (*may be said by all*).

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 honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Blessing

To be pronounced by a priest alone.

In the absence of a Priest, this prayer may be said by another minister or layman, all kneeling:

THE Lord bless ☩ us, and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace, both now and evermore. *Amen.*



Hymn #440 – Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its signs of promise are.
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
See that glory beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes—it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night;
Higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
See, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
Hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
Lo! the Son of God is come!

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1879

Words: John Bowring, 1825