

**Evening Prayer (*Enriching Our Worship*)**  
**December 4, 2024**  
**Wednesday after the First Sunday of Advent**  
[JOHN OF DAMASCUS, Priest and Theologian, c.760](#)

*If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.*

Psalm 139:10,11

**Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,  
opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.  
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,  
the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.  
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us  
through our Savior Jesus Christ,  
that we may abide in your love  
and serve only your will.**

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

**Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*      O God, be not far from us.  
*People*        **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## **O Gracious Light**

Light of the world,  
in grace and beauty,  
Mirror of God's eternal face,  
Transparent flame of love's free duty,  
You bring salvation to our race.

Now, as we see the lights of evening,  
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;  
Worthy are you of endless blessing,  
Sun of our night,  
lamp of our days.

## **Psalm 118: 14-21**

The Lord is my strength and my song, \*  
and he has become my salvation.

**There is a sound of exultation and victory \*  
in the tents of the righteous:**

"The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! \*  
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

**I shall not die, but live, \*  
and declare the works of the Lord.**

The Lord has punished me sorely, \*  
but he did not hand me over to death.

**Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*  
I will enter them;  
I will offer thanks to the Lord.**

"This is the gate of the Lord; \*  
he who is righteous may enter."

**I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.**

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson

Romans 6:1-11

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Canticle M. A Song of Faith

1 Peter 1:3-4,18-21

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*  
by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope;  
Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, \*  
we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven.  
The ransom that was paid to free us \*  
was not paid in silver or gold,  
But in the precious blood of Christ, \*  
the Lamb without spot or stain.  
God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory \*  
so that we might have faith and hope in God.

## The Second Lesson

Luke 17: 20-21

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Canticle P. A Song of the Spirit

Revelation 22:12-17

"Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord, "and bringing my reward with me, \*  
to give to everyone according to their deeds.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, \*  
the beginning and the end."

Blessed are those who do God's commandments, that they may have the right to  
the tree of life, \*

and may enter the city through the gates.

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you, \*  
with this testimony for all the churches.

"I am the root and the offspring of David, \*  
I am the bright morning star."

"Come!" say the Spirit and the Bride; \*

"Come!" let each hearer reply!

Come forward, you who are thirsty, \*

let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

John of Damascus (675-749)

*Hymn The Day of Resurrection, Earth Tell is Out Abroad*

(verse 2)

*Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.*

In former times, God, who is without form or body, could never be depicted. But now when God is seen in the flesh conversing with men, I

make an image of the God whom I see. I do not worship matter; I worship the Creator of matter who became matter for my sake and deigned to inhabit matter, who worked out my salvation through matter. I will not cease from honoring that matter which works for my salvation. I venerate it, though not as God.

The whole earth is a living icon of the face of God.

*We share reflections on the day's scripture and readings.*

*What do you notice?*

*What is speaking to you?*

*What difference does it make?*

*What image of God draws you into close relationship? What images doesn't?*

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**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.

## The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary)

**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.**

## Suffrages B

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of John of Damascus and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

## The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your 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 living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **John of Damascus, Priest and Theologian, C.760**

Confirm our minds, O Lord, in the mysteries of the true faith, set forth with power by your servant John of Damascus; that we, with him, confessing Jesus to be true God and true Man and singing the praises of the risen Lord, may, by the power of the resurrection, attain to eternal joy; 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 Protection**

O God, 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 you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **A Collect for Mission**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

*We offer intercessions and thanksgivings from our heart  
either silently or aloud or in the chat function.*

We pray for healing for those on the parish prayer list, including: Allison, Phoebe Babb, Kristin Baird, Bill, Bruna, Heather Cameron, Cathie Cardelucci, Lydia Cedrone, Ann Daily, Dave, John DeNatale, Peggy Elkins, Jonathan English, David Fieldhouse, Claudette Forss, Connor Gallagher, Kristen Goddard, Louise Haldeman, Lester Hartman, Karen Dodd Howard, Harvey Jacobvitz, Jeffrey, Jerry, John, Jordan, Debra Katt-Lloyd, John & Theresa Kelly, Kevin MacKenzie, Keith & Joanne Manville, Mark Martino, Nancy McAllister, Melissa, Becky Miller, Sebastian Miller and Family, Marcia Muir, Jim & Sara Murphy, T.A.N, Steve Newman, Becca Oberg, Jim O'Reilly, Emma Parese, Pat & Joe, Jane Pennacchia, Muriel Peters, Cecilia Powers, Kirk Ronaldson, Linda Shapiro, Carol Slaughter, Bill & Jan Walsh, and Kelly Wood.

**The General Thanksgiving**

**BCP p. 101**

**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**

**BCP p. 102**

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.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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*