

Morning Prayer      December 3, 2024

Good Morning from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.  
Let us join together in Morning Prayer on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of Advent, Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight  
in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

### **Confession Of Sins**

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

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 us, forgive us all our sins  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all  
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in  
eternal life. *Amen.*

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*      Lord, open our lips.  
*People*          And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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.

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

## **Jubilate**

## **Psalm 100**

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.

## **The Psalms Appointed**

### **Psalm 5**

*Verba mea auribus*

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Give ear to my words, O Lord; \*  
consider my meditation.

Hearken to my cry for help, my King and my God, \*  
for I make my prayer to you.

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; \*  
early in the morning I make my appeal and watch for you.

For you are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, \*  
and evil cannot dwell with you.

Braggarts cannot stand in your sight; \*  
you hate all those who work wickedness.

You destroy those who speak lies; \*  
the bloodthirsty and deceitful, O Lord, you abhor.

But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy I will go into your house; \*

I will bow down toward your holy temple in awe of you.

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness,  
because of those who lie in wait for me; \*  
make your way straight before me.

For there is no truth in their mouth; \*  
there is destruction in their heart;

Their throat is an open grave; \*  
they flatter with their tongue.

Declare them guilty, O God; \*  
let them fall, because of their schemes.

Because of their many transgressions cast them out, \*  
for they have rebelled against you.

But all who take refuge in you will be glad; \*  
they will sing out their joy for ever.

You will shelter them, \*  
so that those who love your Name may exult in you.

For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous; \*  
you will defend them with your favor as with a shield.

Psalm 6

*Domine, ne in furore*

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Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger; \*  
do not punish me in your wrath.

Have pity on me, Lord, for I am weak; \*  
heal me, Lord, for my bones are racked.

My spirit shakes with terror; \*  
how long, O Lord, how long?

Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; \*  
save me for your mercy's sake.

For in death no one remembers you; \*  
and who will give you thanks in the grave?

I grow weary because of my groaning; \*  
every night I drench my bed  
and flood my couch with tears.

My eyes are wasted with grief \*  
and worn away because of all my enemies.

Depart from me, all evildoers, \*  
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.

The Lord has heard my supplication; \*  
the Lord accepts my prayer.

All my enemies shall be confounded and quake with fear; \*  
they shall turn back and suddenly be put to shame.

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 Lessons**

### **A reading from Isaiah 1:21-31**

How the faithful city has become a whore! She that was full of justice, righteousness lodged in her— but now murderers! Your silver has become dross, your wine is mixed with water. Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not defend the orphan, and the widow's cause does not come before them. Therefore says the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: Ah, I will pour out my wrath on my enemies, and avenge myself on my foes! I will turn my hand against you; I will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy. And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness. But rebels and sinners shall be destroyed together, and those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed. For you shall be ashamed of the oaks in which you delighted; and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen. For you shall be like an oak whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water. The strong shall become like tinder, and their work like a spark; they and their work shall burn together, with no one to quench them.

*Officiant*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        Thanks be to God.

### **13 A Song of Praise**

*Benedictus es, Domine*

Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

### **A reading from Thessalonians 2:1-12**

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us. You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how pure, upright, and blameless our conduct was toward you believers. As you know, we dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

*Officiant*      The Word of the Lord.  
*People*        Thanks be to God.

## 18 A Song to the Lamb

*Dignus es*

Revelation 4:11, 5:9-10, 13

Splendor and honor and kingly power \*  
are yours by right, O Lord our God,  
For you created everything that is, \*  
and by your will they were created and have their being;  
And yours by right, O Lamb that was slain, \*  
for with your blood you have redeemed for God,  
From every family, language, people, and nation, \*  
a kingdom of priests to serve our God.

And so, to him who sits upon the throne, \*  
and to Christ the Lamb,  
Be worship and praise, dominion and splendor, \*  
for ever and for evermore.

### A reading from the Gospel of Luke 20:9-18

He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, and leased it to tenants, and went to another country for a long time. When the season came, he sent a slave to the tenants in order that they might give him his share of the produce of the vineyard; but the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Next he sent another slave; that one also they beat and insulted and sent away empty-handed. And he sent still a third; this one also they wounded and threw out. Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.' But when the tenants saw him, they discussed it among themselves and said, 'This is the heir; let us kill him so that the inheritance may be ours.' So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others." When they heard this, they said, "Heaven forbid!" But he looked at them and said, "What then does this text mean: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.

*Officiant*      The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

### 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**

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    A**

V.     Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R.     And grant us your salvation.  
V.     Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R.     Let your people sing with joy.  
V.     Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R.     For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

### **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.

### **A Collect for Peace**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***At this time I invite your prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings***

### **The General Thanksgiving**

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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.

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 Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen*

*2 Corinthians 13:14*