
Evening Prayer

Eve of the Presidential Inauguration
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Christ Church Detroit

OPENING SENTENCE

Officiant 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 AND ABSOLUTION

Officiant Dear friends in Christ, we have gathered together in the presence of God to give thanks for the gifts God has given us, to proclaim God’s praise, to hear God’s Word, and to ask for ourselves, for our nation, and for the next President of the United States, those things that are necessary for our life, our salvation, and our well-being as citizens in this land. So that we might prepare ourselves for our solemn task, let us confess our sins, so that we might obtain forgiveness by God’s infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

All **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. Amen.**

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

OPENING VERSICLE AND DOXOLOGY

Officiant O God, be not far from us.

People **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

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

PSALM

Psalm 31:1-5,14-16

The 21st President, Chester A. Arthur, took the oath of office on a Bible open to this psalm.

Reader In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. *
I have said, "You are my God.

My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
and in your loving-kindness save me."

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

FIRST LESSON

Micah 6:1-8

The 39th President, James Earl Carter, Jr., took the oath of office on a Bible open to these verses.

Reader

A reading from Micah.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 9

Isaiah 12:2-6

Reader The First Song of Isaiah.

Surely, it is God who saves me; *

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, *

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; *

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5:1-16

The 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, took the oath of office on a Bible open to these verses.

Reader A reading from Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 17

Luke 2:29-32

Reader

The Song of Simeon.

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

All

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

REFLECTION

The Officiant offers or facilitates a brief reflection. Silence may be kept.

APOSTLES' CREED

Officiant I believe in God,
All the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Let us pray.

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is 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

Reader That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
All **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 all
your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

I invite your prayers, silently or aloud.

Intercessions are offered and silence is kept.

Then the Officiant collects the prayers, saying

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, the Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the
councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect,
may your benediction be upon this nation and her people, that we and those
who take the oath of office of President may strive to embody your standards of
justice and righteousness towards one another, for the sake of your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, reigns now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all
perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus
Christ.
Amen.

Officiant O God our Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess you and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Officiant Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banners of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Officiant 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.

All **Amen.**

The Officiant offers a blessing, and then says

CONCLUDING SENTENCE

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **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. — *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Amen.



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