



EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY after FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT

December 3, 2025
6:30 P.M.



St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church
in the Admiral District of West Seattle

EVENING PRAYER: RITE II

If you wish to make online donations to the ministry of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, please visit:
<https://sjbwestseattle.org/give>

Opening Sentence of Scripture

Presider Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.
— Mark 13:35-36

In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
— Isaiah 40:3

The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
— Isaiah 40:5

Confession

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

People 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.

Presider 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

Presider O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us.

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 your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are 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 worlds.

The Psalter

Psalm 12 • *Salvum me fac*

- 1 Help me, LORD, for there is no godly one left; *
the faithful have vanished from among us.
- 2 **Everyone speaks falsely with his neighbor; ***
with a smooth tongue they speak from a double heart.
- 3 Oh, that the LORD would cut off all smooth tongues, *
and close the lips that utter proud boasts!
- 4 **Those who say, "With our tongue will we prevail; ***
our lips are our own; who is LORD over us?"
- 5 Because the needy are oppressed, and the poor cry out in misery, *
I will rise up, says the LORD, and give them the help they long for.
- 6 **The words of the LORD are pure words, ***
like silver refined from ore and purified seven times in the fire.
- 7 O LORD, watch over us *
and save us from this generation for ever.
- 8 **The wicked prowl on every side, ***
and that which is worthless is highly prized by everyone.

Psalm 13 • *Usquequo, Domine?*

- 1 How long, O LORD? will you forget me for ever? *
how long will you hide your face from me?
- 2 **How long shall I have perplexity in my mind,**
and grief in my heart, day after day? *
how long shall my enemy triumph over me?
- 3 Look upon me and answer me, O LORD my God; *
give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
- 4 **Lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," ***
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.
- 5 But I put my trust in your mercy; *
my heart is joyful because of your saving help.
- 6 **I will sing to the LORD, for he has dealt with me richly; ***
I will praise the Name of the Lord Most High.

Psalm 14 • *Dixit insipiens*

- 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;
there is none who does any good.
 - 2 **The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, ***
to see if there is any who is wise,
if there is one who seeks after God.
 - 3 Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; *
there is none who does good; no, not one.
 - 4 **Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers ***
who eat up my people like bread
and do not call upon the Lord?
 - 5 See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.
 - 6 **Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, ***
but the LORD is their refuge.
 - 7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad.
- 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.

Reading

2 Peter 3:1-10

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you; in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken through your apostles.

First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless.

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

The Song of Mary • *Magnificat: Luke 1:46–55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children 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.

Reading

Matthew 21:23–32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Canticle

The Song of Simeon • *Nunc dimittis*: Luke 2:29–32

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.
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.

Reflection

Silence may be kept.

The Apostles' Creed

People 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

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

The Suffrages

Set A

Show us your mercy, O Lord;
And grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
For only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;
Your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collect of the Day

First Sunday in Advent

Presider 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.**

Choose one or more of the following Collects.

A Collect for Peace

Presider Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

A Collect for Aid Against Perils

Presider 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.**

A Collect for Protection

Presider 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 Prayer for the Presence of Christ

Presider 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 you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission

People 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.**

Prayers of the People

Presider In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will; that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus,

People **and hear our prayer.**

Presider Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus,

People **and hear our prayer.**

Presider In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind, that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

Come Lord Jesus,

People **and hear our prayer.**

Presider In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We pray that we might obtain joy and gladness, and that sorrow and sighing might flee away.

Come Lord Jesus,

People **and hear our prayer.**

Presider In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come Lord Jesus,

People **and hear our prayer.**

Presider O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

One or both of the following may be used.

A General Thanksgiving

People 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

People 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.

The Blessing

Presider Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Presider Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21