



EVENING PRAYER

WEDNESDAY after SECOND SUNDAY of ADVENT

December 10, 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 119:25-32 Daleth • *Adhæsit pavimento*

- 25 My soul cleaves to the dust; *
give me life according to your word.
- 26 **I have confessed my ways, and you answered me; ***
instruct me in your statutes.
- 27 Make me understand the way of your commandments, *
that I may meditate on your marvelous works.
- 28 **My soul melts away for sorrow; ***
strengthen me according to your word.
- 29 Take from me the way of lying; *
let me find grace through your law.
- 30 **I have chosen the way of faithfulness; ***
I have set your judgments before me.
- 31 I hold fast to your decrees; *
O LORD, let me not be put to shame.
- 32 **I will run the way of your commandments, ***
for you have set my heart at liberty.

Psalm 119:33-40 He • *Legem pone*

- 33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; ***
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
- 36 **Incline my heart to your decrees ***
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
- 38 **Fulfill your promise to your servant, ***
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
- 40 **Behold, I long for your commandments; ***
in your righteousness preserve my life.

41 Let your loving-kindness come to me, O LORD, *
and your salvation, according to your promise.

42 **Then shall I have a word for those who taunt me, ***
because I trust in your words.

43 Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth, *
for my hope is in your judgments.

44 **I shall continue to keep your law; ***
I shall keep it for ever and ever.

45 I will walk at liberty, *
because I study your commandments.

46 **I will tell of your decrees before kings ***
and will not be ashamed.

47 I delight in your commandments, *
which I have always loved.

48 **I will lift up my hands to your commandments, ***
and I will meditate on your statutes.

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

Revelation 1:17 – 2:7

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands:

"I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them to be false. I also know that you are enduring patiently and bearing up for the sake of my name, and that you have not grown weary. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God."

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 23:1–12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father — the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

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 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 Saint John
the Baptist and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

The Collect of the Day

Second Sunday in Advent

Presider Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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