



SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
EVENING PRAYER: RITE I  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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*"A Potter" by Else Berg, 1942*

Thine is the day, O God, thine also the night; thou hast established the moon and the sun. Thou hast fixed all the boundaries of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15, 16*

**Confession of Sin**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together*

Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against thy holy laws,  
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,  
spare thou those who confess their faults,  
restore thou those who are penitent,  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesus our Lord;  
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

*The Priest alone says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant*        O God, make speed to save us.

*People*            O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People*

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.

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; \*  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

*At the end of the Psalms is sung or said*

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.

**A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (64:1-9)**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil--  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From ages past no one has heard,  
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,  
    who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who gladly do right,  
    those who remember you in your ways.  
But you were angry, and we sinned;  
    because you hid yourself we transgressed.  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
    and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
    and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls on your name,  
    or attempts to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
    and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.  
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;  
    we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
    we are all the work of your hand.  
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,  
    and do not remember iniquity forever.  
    Now consider, we are all your people.

*Reader*       The Word of the Lord

*People*       Thanks be to God

### **Canticle – The Song of Simeon**

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
    according to thy word;  
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
    which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
    and to be the glory of thy 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.

## **The Gospel according to Mark (13:24-37)**

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from heaven,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

*Reader*            The Gospel of the Lord

*People*            Thanks be to God

## **Sermon**

## **The Apostles' Creed** (Rite II language)

*Officiant and People together*

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 with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

*Officiant and 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.

### **Suffrages A**

V. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;  
R. And grant us thy salvation.  
V. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
R. And make thy chosen people joyful.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in thee can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under thy care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let thy way be known upon earth;  
R. Thy 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 thy Holy Spirit.

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Lusitanian Church and The Right Reverend Jorge Pina Cabral, Bishop of the Lusitanian Church.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for St. Mark's, Havre.

In our St. Stephen's community, we ask for your prayers for Chris and Linda, Dorothy, Echo, Jan, Kim, Lisa, Lynn, Miles, Susan, and Tim.

### *Collect of the Day*

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Collect for Aid against Perils*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

*Collect for the Presence of Christ*

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 thee as thou art revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of thy love. *Amen.*

*Prayer for Mission*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine 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 thy love's sake. *Amen.*

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

**General Thanksgiving**

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.

We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

*Then may be said*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Concluding sentence*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen. *2 Corinthians 13:14*

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