



THE CHURCH  
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

# The Order for Morning Prayer

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

## Opening Sentences

*Officiant* Watch ye, for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. *Mark 13:35-36*

## Confession of Sin

*¶ The Officiant says*

**D**EARLY BELOVED, we have come together in the presence of Almighty God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and our salvation. And so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind to worship him, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*¶ Officiant and People, all kneeling*

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;  
And there is no health in us.  
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 Officiant alone stands and says*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution ✠ and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.

‡ *People Amen.*

‡ *All stand*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*People* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*All* 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.

‡ *All say the Invitatory Canticle together, as follows*

### Invitatory Canticle

*Venite, exultemus*

PSALM 95:1-7, 96:9, 13

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; \*  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, \*  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth, \*  
and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his and he made it, \*  
and his hands prepared the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and fall down \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God, \*  
and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.  
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, \*  
and with righteousness to judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

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.

‡ *All are then seated for the Psalm appointed for the day*

My song shall be alway of the loving-kindness of the Lord; \*  
with my mouth will I ever be showing thy truth from one generation to another.

For I have said, Mercy shall be set up for ever; \*  
thy truth shalt thou stablish in the heavens.

I have made a covenant with my chosen; \*  
I have sworn unto David my servant:

Thy seed will I stablish for ever, \*  
and set up thy throne from one generation to another.

Thou spakest sometime in visions unto thy saints, and saidst, \*  
I have laid help upon one that is mighty, I have exalted one chosen out of the people.

I have found David my servant; \*  
with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand shall hold him fast, \*  
and my arm shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not be able to do him violence; \*  
the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.

I will smite down his foes before his face, \*  
and plague them that hate him.

My truth also and my mercy shall be with him; \*  
and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.

I will set his dominion also in the sea, \*  
and his right hand in the floods.

He shall call me, Thou art my Father, \*  
my God, and my strong salvation.

*¶ At the conclusion of the Psalmody the Gloria Patri is said by all*

Glorify 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

## The First Lesson

2 SAMUEL 7:1-II, 16

**N**OW WHEN THE KING DWELT IN HIS HOUSE, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies round about, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.'"

*¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

## Canticle

*Benedictus Dominus Deus*

LUKE 1:68-79

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, \*  
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us \*  
in the house of his servant David,  
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, \*  
which have been since the world began:  
That we should be saved from our enemies, \*  
and from the hand of all that hate us;  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, \*  
and to remember his holy covenant;  
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, \*  
that he would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies \*  
might serve him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before him, \*  
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, \*  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord  
to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people \*  
for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, \*  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

*¶ All are seated*

## The Second Lesson

LUKE 1:26-38

**I**N THE SIXTH MONTH THE ANGEL GABRIEL was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

*¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the Canticle*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
 and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
 For he hath regarded \*  
 the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
 For behold from henceforth \*  
 all generations shall call me blessed.  
 For he that is mighty hath magnified me, \*  
 and holy is his Name.  
 And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
 throughout all generations.  
 He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
 and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
 He hath filled the hungry with good things, \*  
 and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, \*  
 as he promised to our forefathers,  
 Abraham and his seed 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.

*¶ All remain standing for the Apostles' Creed*

## The Apostles' Creed

*¶ Said by the Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth;  
 And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
 born of the Virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, dead, and buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day he rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
 From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, ✝  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

¶ *The Officiant and People say the following*

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

¶ *Then the short form of the Lord's Prayer is said by all, kneeling*

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.  
Amen.

¶ *Then follow these Suffrages, said by the Officiant and People*

*Officiant* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*People* And grant us thy salvation.

*Officiant* Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*People* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Officiant* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*People* For only in thee can we live in safety.

*Officiant* Lord, keep this nation under thy care;

*People* And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

*Officiant* Let thy way be known upon earth;

*People* Thy saving health among all nations.

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

*Officiant* Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
*People* And sustain us with thy Holy Spirit.

## The Collects

**W**E BESEECH THEE, ALMIGHTY GOD, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*¶ People Amen.*

**O** HEAVENLY FATHER, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray thee so to guide and govern us by thy Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget thee, but may remember that we are ever walking in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

**O** GOD, WHO HAST MADE of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after thee and find thee; bring the nations into thy fold; pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *¶ People Amen.*

## The General Thanksgiving

*¶ Said by the Officiant and People together*

**A**LMIGHTY 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.

### A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

*¶ Said by the Officiant*

**A**Lmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *¶ People Amen.*

*¶ All stand*

### Benedicamus Domino

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

### The Grace

*¶ Officiant*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *¶ People Amen.*

# Hymn



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen  
 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge  
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on  
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*Words: Latin, 9th-century*

*Music: VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL: 15th-century, Mode I*

Sermon

The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson

## Carol

Angelus ad virginem  
Subintrans in conclave.  
Virginis formidinem  
Demulcens inquit "Ave."  
Ave Regina Virginum,  
Coeli Terreque Dominum  
Concipies,  
Et paries  
Intacta  
Salutem hominum,  
Tu Porta Coeli facta  
Medella Criminum.

Quomodo conciperem  
Quae virum non cognovi?  
Qualiter infringerem  
Quod firma mente vovi?  
'Spiritus Sancti gratia  
Perficiet haec omnia,  
Ne timeas,  
Sed gaudeas,  
Secura  
Quod castimonia  
Manebit in te pura  
Dei potentia.'

Ad haec virgo nobilis  
Respondens inquit ei,  
'Ancilla sum humilis  
Omnipotentis Dei.  
Tibi caelesti nuntio,  
Tanti secreti conscio,  
Consentiens,  
Et cupiens  
Videre  
Factum quod audio,  
Parata sum parere  
Dei consilio.'

*Gabriel to Mary came,  
And entered at her dwelling,  
With his salutation glad,  
Her maiden fears dispelling,  
All hail, thou Queen of virgins bright!  
God, Lord of earth and heaven's height,  
Thy very Son  
Shall soon be born  
in pureness,  
The Saviour of mankind.  
Thou art the gate of heaven bright,  
The sinners' healer kind.'*

*'How could I a mother be  
That am to man a stranger?  
How should I my strong resolve,  
My solemn vows endanger?'  
'Pow'r from the Holy Ghost on high  
Shall bring to pass this mystery.  
Then have no fear:  
Be of good cheer,  
Believing  
That still thy chastity  
In God's Almighty keeping  
Shall all unsullied be.'*

*Then to him the maid replied,  
With noble mien supernatural  
'Lo! the humble handmaid  
Of God the Lord eternal  
With thee, bright messenger of heaven,  
By whom this wondrous news is given,  
I well agree  
And long to see  
Fulfilled  
Thy gracious prophecy.  
As God my Lord doth will it,  
So be it unto me!'*

Eia mater Domini,  
Quae pacem reddidisti  
Angelis et homini,  
Cum Christum genuisti,  
Tuum exora filium  
Ut se nobis propitium  
Exhibeat,  
Et deleat  
Peccata,  
Praestans auxilium  
Vita frui beata  
Post hoc exilium.

*Hail! thou Mother of the Lord,  
Who bring'st of gifts the rarest,  
Peace to angels and to men  
When Christ the Lord thou barest!  
Do thou, we pray, entreat thy Son  
For us our long'd redemption  
Himself to win  
And from our sin  
Release us;  
His succor for to give  
That, when we hence are taken  
We too in heav'n may live*

*Words: Attr. Philip the Chancellor (d. 1236)*

*Music: Anonymous, 13th Century; arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## Closing Prayers

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirit.

*Officiant* Let us pray.

‡ *All kneel*

‡ *Then Prayers and Intercessions are offered*

**O** GOD, THE CREATOR and preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. ‡ *People Amen.*

**O** GOD, who hast bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ‡ *People Amen.*

**L**ORD, MAKE US INSTRUMENTS of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

☩ *People Amen.*

**O** HEAVENLY FATHER, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ☩ *People Amen.*

**A**SSIST US MERCIFULLY, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation; that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by thy gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ☩ *People Amen.*

## The Advent Blessing

**M**AY ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

☩ *People Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. ☩ *People Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. ☩ *People Amen.*

And the blessing ✝ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ☩ *People Amen.*

## *Liturgical Music*

The great master musician-theologian Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) created several settings of the tune *Meine Seele erhebt den Herren* (*My soul doth magnify the Lord*) – one of which opens today’s liturgy. Drawn from his *Schübler Chorale Preludes*, the cantus (melody) is the ancient *Tonus Peregrinus* which is set against an accompaniment that is hollow and melancholy representing the great longing for the Messiah.

Perhaps the quintessential hymn of Advent is *O come, O come Emmanuel*. Imbued with an element of longing, the names given to the Messiah in this popular hymn (Emmanuel, Wisdom, Lord, Root of Jesse, etc.) are drawn from the antiphons on the *Magnificat* sung in the medieval church at Vespers during the week before Christmas. Known as the great “O Antiphons,” the text and tune are the fruits of 19th-century efforts to reclaim treasures of Christian liturgy from pre-Reformation sources.

The medieval carol *Angelus ad Virginem* is a fanciful musical depiction of the Annunciation as heard in this morning’s lesson from the Gospel of Luke. The dance-like nature of the carol depicts all of the joy inherent in the news of the arrival of the long-awaited Messiah.

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) was a prolific composer and teacher and an important figure in the development of Baroque German music. His setting of *Veni Redemptor gentium* (*Come, Redeemer of our race*) is heard at the conclusion of this morning’s liturgy. The sorrowful nature of the work heightens the longing for the miracle of Christmas.





## THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

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