



THE CHURCH  
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE

# The Order for Morning Prayer

## The First Sunday after Christmas Day

December 27, 2020

### Opening Sentences

*Officiant* Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.  
*Luke 2:10-11*

### 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*

**Psalm 147**

*Laudate Dominum*

Praise the Lord, for it is a good thing to sing praises unto our God; \*  
yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful.

The Lord doth build up Jerusalem, \*  
and gather together the outcasts of Israel.

He healeth those that are broken in heart, \*  
and giveth medicine to heal their sickness.

He telleth the number of the stars, \*  
and calleth them all by their names.

Great is our Lord, and great is his power; \*  
yea, and his wisdom is infinite.

The Lord setteth up the meek, \*  
and bringeth the ungodly down to the ground.

O sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; \*  
sing praises upon the harp unto our God:

Who covereth the heaven with clouds, and prepareth rain for the earth; \*  
and maketh the grass to grow upon the mountains, and herb for the use of men;

Who giveth fodder unto the cattle, \*  
and feedeth the young ravens that call upon him.

He hath no pleasure in the strength of an horse; \*  
neither delighteth he in any man's legs.

But the Lord's delight is in them that fear him, \*  
and put their trust in his mercy.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise thy God, O Sion.

For he hath made fast the bars of thy gates, \*  
and hath blessed thy children within thee.

He maketh peace in thy borders, \*  
and filleth thee with the flour of wheat.

He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth, \*  
and his word runneth very swiftly.

He giveth snow like wool, \*  
and scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes.

He casteth forth his ice like morsels: \*  
who is able to abide his frost?

He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: \*  
he bloweth with his wind, and the waters flow.

He showeth his word unto Jacob, \*  
his statutes and ordinances unto Israel.

He hath not dealt so with any nation; \*  
neither have the heathen knowledge of his laws.

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

## The Lessons

### The First Lesson

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

**I** WILL GREATLY REJOICE IN THE LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

## Canticle

## *Te Deum laudamus*

We praise thee, O God;  
we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud,  
the Heavens and all the Powers therein.  
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry:  
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the apostles praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise thee.  
The noble army of martyrs praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee,  
the Father, of an infinite majesty, thine adorable, true, and only Son,  
also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.  
Thou art the King of glory, O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.  
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,  
thou didst humble thyself to be born of a Virgin.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death,  
thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come to be our judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants,  
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy saints,  
in glory everlasting.

‡ *All are seated*

**I**N THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known.

¶ *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 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

**A**LMIGHTY GOD, WHO HAST Poured upon us the new light of thine incarnate Word: Grant that the same light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; 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**LD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that we, being ordered by thy governance, may do always what is righteous 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**LMTIGHTY 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 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*  
*Music: MENDELSSOHN; Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)*

Sermon

The Rev. Andrew John Archie

## Carol

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold him  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim  
Worship night and day,  
A breast-ful of milk  
And a manger-ful of hay;  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.

What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a Wise Man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give him,  
Give my heart.

*Words: Christina Rossetti (1830–1894)*

*Music: Harold Darke (1888–1976)*

## 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*

**A**Lmighty GOD, who hast so loved the world as to give thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life: Vouchsafe unto us, we humbly pray thee, the precious gift of faith, whereby we may know that the Son of God is come; and, being rooted and grounded in the mystery of the Word made flesh, may have power to overcome the world, and gain the blessed immortality of heaven; through the merits of the same incarnate Christ. ¶ *People Amen*

**H**EAVENLY FATHER, who in thy Word hast given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray thee, the cities of the earth. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that people from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¶ *People Amen.*

**O** GOD, BY WHOM THE MEEK are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ¶ *People Amen.*

**A**Lmighty AND EVERLASTING GOD, by whose Spirit the whole body of thy faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before thee for all members of thy holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and godly serve thee; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ¶ *People Amen.*

## The Christmas Blessing

**M**AY HE WHO BY HIS INCARNATION gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward grace and goodwill; And the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and abide with you for ever. ¶ *People Amen.*

## *Liturgical Music*

A brilliant organist and harpsichordist, Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772) was a French composer of Jewish lineage. By reputation a dazzling performer at the keyboard, Daquin was courted by the aristocracy, and his great expertise at the organ drew large crowds to hear him. He was particularly celebrated for his improvisations on Christmas carols (or Noëls) each Christmas Eve and it is said that all of Paris flocked to hear him play at Midnight Mass. These improvisations, no doubt, formed the basis for his charming *Noëls* which remain eminently popular to this day and from which the music – both beginning and concluding the liturgy – are drawn. The liturgy opens with portions of his setting of the *Noël Étranger* and closes with a portion of his *Quand Jesus naquit à Noël*.

The great hymn Wesleyan *Hark, the herald angels sing* is, arguably, the most theological of our popular Christmas hymns. Forever wedded to the tune by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), the composer originally wrote the tune for male voices and brass in celebration of the invention of printing by Gutenberg.

Like many Christmas texts penned in Victorian times, the imagery invoked by *In the bleak midwinter* assumes English surroundings and weather. The secret of the hymn, however, lies elsewhere in the sensitive and imaginative expression of the Incarnation. Set to a tender, expressive tune by Harold Darke, this setting has become a perennial favorite among choirs around the world.





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

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