Morning Prayer

Saturday, December 19, 2026

Advent, Week 3 — Saturday

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN

Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all,
and hear your servants when they call.

When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that you are Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
laud, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally.

Psalm 119 *Grant Me Understanding (Gimel)*

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

Repay your servant; enliven me and I will keep your words.

Remove the veil from my eyes, and I will consider the wonders of your law.

I am a newcomer on the earth; do not hide your commandments from me.

My soul has longed to desire your justifications at all times.

You have rebuked the arrogant; those who decline from your commandments are cursed.

Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have sought your testimonies.

For leaders were seated and spoke against me, but your servant was meditating on your justifications.

For your testimony is my meditation and your justifications are my counsel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

Psalm 121 *I Rejoiced When They Said to Me*

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: "We will go into the house of the Lord."

Our feet were standing in your courts, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, which is built as a city, which is compact together.

For there the tribes went up, the tribes of the Lord; the testimony of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

For there the thrones have sat in judgment, the thrones over the house of David.

Ask for the things that are for the peace of Jerusalem, and abundance for those who love you.

Let peace be in your strength, and abundance in your towers.

For the sake of my brethren and my neighbors, I spoke peace about you.

Because of the house of the Lord our God, I sought good things for you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Your light will dawn, O Lord, and your glory will be seen upon us.*

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE (BARUCH 1:15; 2:11–16)

Justice is with the Lord our God; but to us confusion of face this day.

And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a strong hand and with signs and with wonders, and with great power and with a stretched out arm.

And you have made yourself a name as at this day.

We have sinned, we have done wickedly, O Lord our God, against all your ordinances.

Let your indignation be turned away from us, for we are left a few among the nations where you have scattered us.

Hear, O Lord, our prayers and our petitions, and deliver us for your own sake.

And grant that we may find favor in the sight of those who have led us away,

that all the earth may know that you are the Lord our God, and that your name has been called upon Israel and upon his posterity.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

SHORT READING

ISAIAH 11:1–2

> A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

RESPONSORY

V. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

R. Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay.

V. Give new courage to your people,

R. who trust in your word.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: BENEDICTUS (LUKE 1:68-79)

THE CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (BENEDICTUS) (LUKE 1:68–79)

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

Blessed is the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has visited and accomplished the redemption of his people.

And he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David his servant.

As he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets, those who have been from the beginning:

Salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

To show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,

the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, that he would grant to us,

that being freed from the hand of our enemies, we might serve him without fear,

in holiness and justice before him, throughout all our days.

And you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the face of the Lord, to prepare his ways.

To give knowledge of salvation to his people, for the remission of their sins,

through the compassionate mercy of our God, by which the Rising Sun has visited us from on high,

to illuminate those sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death, to direct our feet in 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 forever. Amen.

> *Ant. Come, Lord, and do not delay; forgive the sins of your people.*

MORNING INTERCESSIONS

As we wait for the coming of our Lord, let us pray with longing hearts, saying:

For the whole church, that it may be a community of watchful hope, living in expectation of your return: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For those who do not yet know you, that the light of your gospel may dawn in their hearts: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For all who are burdened by sorrow, that Advent hope may sustain them: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For a spirit of generosity in this season, that the poor may experience the justice of your coming kingdom: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*
For our parish community, that we may prepare together with prayer and love for the mystery of Christmas: we pray to you, O Lord.	*Come, Lord Jesus.*

For ourselves, that we may make room in our hearts for the Christ who comes: we pray to you, O Lord. *Come, Lord Jesus.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as the Lord himself has taught us:

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of the promise, you spoke through the prophets and fulfilled your word in Jesus Christ. Give us grace to live in patient hope, trusting in your promises, until he comes again in glory; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless us: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.