

# St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Evening Prayer: Rite Two



**Wednesday in Christmas**  
**Feast of Holy Innocents**  
(transferred from Dec 28)

December 29, 2021 | 6:00pm Online Worship  
The Reverend Daniel Leatherman, Vicar

## **OPENING SENTENCE**

*The Officiant says*

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139:10, 11*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Officiant says to the people*

Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us be 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, all kneeling*

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.

*The Priest alone stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

**VERSICLE S 58 Preces**

*All stand*

*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 Spi - rit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. A - men.

*Except in Lent, add:*

Al - le - lu - ia.

**INVITATORY HYMN S59 O Gracious Light (Plainsong/Ford/McGregor) (BCP p. 118)**

1. O gra - cious Light, pure bright - ness of the ev - er - liv - ing  
 Fa - ther in hea - ven, O Je - sus Christ, ho - ly and bless - ed!

2. Now as we come to the set - ting of the sun, and our  
 eyes be - hold the ves - per light, we sing your prais - es, O God:  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit. 3. You are wor - thy at all times  
 to be praised by hap - py voic - es, O Son of God, O Giv - er  
 of life, and to be glo - ri - fied through all the worlds.

## 19 *Caeli enarrant*

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God, \*  
and the firmament shows his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> One day tells its tale to another, \*  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.

<sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language, \*  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup> their sound has gone out into all lands, \*  
and their message to the ends of the world.

<sup>5</sup> In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; \*  
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup> It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens  
and runs about to the end of it again; \*  
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

<sup>7</sup> The law of the Lord is perfect  
and revives the soul; \*  
the testimony of the Lord is sure  
and gives wisdom to the innocent.

<sup>8</sup> The statutes of the Lord are just  
and rejoice the heart; \*  
the commandment of the Lord is clear  
and gives light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the Lord is clean  
and endures for ever; \*  
the judgments of the Lord are true

and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold, \*  
sweeter far than honey,  
than honey in the comb.

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened, \*  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> Who can tell how often he offends? \*  
cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup> Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;  
let them not get dominion over me; \*  
then shall I be whole and sound,  
and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my  
heart be acceptable in your sight, \*  
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

126 *In convertendo*

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup>Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

<sup>3</sup>Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."

<sup>4</sup>The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>5</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*

like the watercourses of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup>Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>7</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

*At the end of the Psalm 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.

*The people sit.*

## The Lessons

### **Isaiah 54:1-13**

1Sing, O barren one who did not bear; burst into song and shout, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married, says the Lord.2Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes.3For you will spread out to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will settle the desolate towns.4Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; do not be discouraged, for you will not suffer disgrace; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the disgrace of your widowhood you will remember no more.5For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

6For the Lord has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man's youth when she is cast off, says your God.7For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you.8In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer.9This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you.10For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

11O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your foundations with sapphires. 12I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your wall of precious stones. 13All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your children.

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

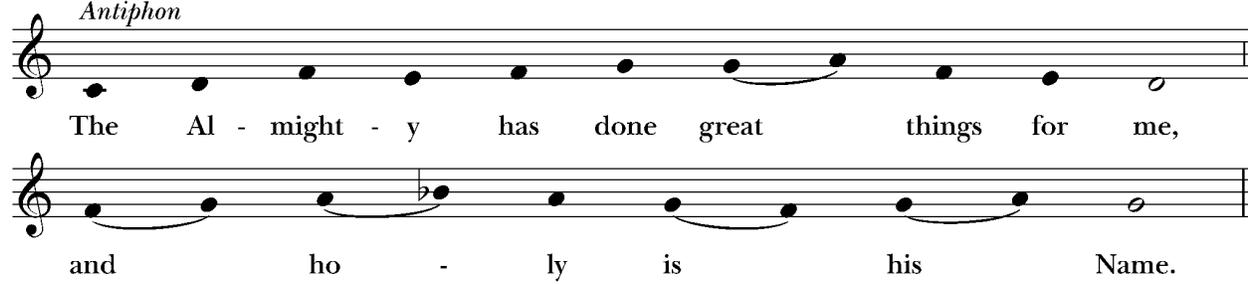
*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**FIRST CANTICLE S 242 *The Song of Mary (Canticle 15) (Plainsong/Ford) (BCP p. 119)***

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

*Antiphon*



The Al - might - y has done great things for me,  
and ho - ly is his Name.

1. My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices  
in God my Sav - ior; for he has looked with favor on his  
low - ly ser - vant.      2. From this day all generations will  
call me bless - ed: the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and ho - ly is his Name.      3. He has mercy on those who fear him

in every gen - er - a - tion. 4. He has shown the strength of his arm,  
 he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit. 5. He has cast down  
 the might - y from their thrones, and has lifted up the low - ly.  
 6. He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way  
 emp - ty. 7. He has come to the help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el,  
 for he has remembered his promise of mer - cy, 8. The promise he  
 made to our fa - thers, to Abraham and his children for ev - er. [Ant.]  
*(Gloria Patri may be omitted)*  
 9. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit:  
 10. As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

**SECOND READING: Matthew 24:45-51**

**Matthew 2:13-18**

13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ 14 Then Joseph\* got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15 and remained there until the

death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,\* he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.\* 17 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18 ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

*Reader*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow.*

**SECOND CANTICLE (BCP p. 119)**

*Antiphon*



These eyes of mine have seen the Sa - vior,



whom you have pre - pared for all the world to see.



1. Lord, you now have set your ser - vant free to go in peace as you



have prom - ised; 2. For these eyes of mine have seen the Sa - vior,



whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

3. A Light to enlight - en the na - tions, and the glory of your  
 (Gloria Patri may be omitted)

peo - ple Is - ra - el. [Ant.] 4. Glo - ry to the Father, and  
 to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit: 5. As it  
 was in the begin - ning, is now, and will be for ev - er. A - men. [Ant.]

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Officiant and People together, all standing.*

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 LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 121)**

### *Officiant and People*

Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your Name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
    and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
    and the glory are yours,  
    now and forever. Amen.

## **SUFFRAGES (BCP p. 121)**

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 all your  
saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

## **Collect of the Day: The Holy Innocents**

We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by  
King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims;  
and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule

of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **For Mission**

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **World Cycle of Prayer**

We pray for the people of Tajikistan

*Other prayers and intercessions may follow:*

*Anniversaries, Recovery from sickness, Travelers, Those in trouble or bereavement, the departed, or other needs.*

### **A Collect for Peace**

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### **For Those Who Need Continuing Care**

Look with mercy, O God our Father, on all persons who have become ill, weak, distressed, or isolated. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept help; and increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING**

*Officiant and 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**

### *Officiant and 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.*

## **CONCLUDING VERSICLE**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **CONCLUDING SENTENCE**

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

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