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Watch, for you know not when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. *Mark 13:35, 36*

### Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*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.**

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

### Invitatory and Psalter

BCP p. 80

*All stand*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.  
*People* **And our mouth shall 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 for ever. Amen.  
Alleluia.

## Venite

## Psalm 95:1-7

*Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

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.

*Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.*

## Psalm 72

## *Deus, iudicium*

## BCP p. 685

*Psalm 72:1-7,18-19*

Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's son;  
That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice.  
That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.  
He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.  
He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.  
He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.  
In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!  
And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen.

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 11:1-10

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 11. The Third Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 60:1-3, 11a, 14c, 18-19

Arise, shine, for your light has come, \*  
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.  
For behold, darkness covers the land; \*  
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.  
But over you the Lord will rise, \*  
and his glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will stream to your light, \*  
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.  
Your gates will always be open; \*  
by day or night they will never be shut.  
They will call you, The City of the Lord, \*  
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Violence will no more be heard in your land, \*  
ruin or destruction within your borders.  
You will call your walls, Salvation, \*  
and all your portals, Praise.  
The sun will no more be your light by day; \*  
by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.  
The Lord will be your everlasting light, \*  
and your God will be your glory.

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 Second Lesson

Romans 15:4-13

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,

and let all the peoples praise him”; and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **16. The Song of Zechariah**

**Luke 1:68-79**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
    holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and 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.

## **The Gospel**

**Matthew 3:1-12**

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Sermon**

## **The Apostles’ Creed**

**BCP p. 96**

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

BCP p. 97

*Officiant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            **And also with you.**  
*Officiant*        Let us pray.

## The Lord's Prayer

**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 B

V.        Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
 R.        **Govern and uphold them, now and always.**  
 V.        Day by day we bless you;  
 R.        **We praise your name for ever.**  
 V.        Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
 R.        **Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**  
 V.        Lord, show us your love and mercy;  
 R.        **For we put our trust in you.**  
 V.        In you, Lord, is our hope;  
 R.        **And we shall never hope in vain.**

## The Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## A Prayer for Mission

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Here may be sung a hymn or anthem.*

*Authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow.*

*Before the close of the Office one or both of the following may be used*

## The General Thanksgiving

BCP p. 101

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

BCP p. 102

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.**

*Then may be said*

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Officiant may then conclude with one of the following*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20-21*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Early Bird Pricing for the 2026 Small Church Conference closes Dec. 12! | Apr. 24–25, 2026 | St. Luke’s Episcopal Church (Jackson).** Registration is open for the second annual West Tennessee Small Church Conference, a gathering designed to strengthen, encourage, and connect congregations across our diocese. We’ll meet at St. Luke’s in Jackson from Friday at 5 p.m. through Saturday at 5 p.m. This year’s keynote speaker is The Rev. Stacy Williams-Duncan, whose expertise in educational technology, curriculum design, and organizational change will offer practical and inspiring insights for parish ministry. Early-bird registration is \$250 per church (up to three attendees) through Dec. 12, 2025, increasing to \$300 per church afterward; additional attendees are \$150 per person. Fees include hotel accommodations, meals, and conference materials. Full details and registration: <https://edwtn.org/event/small-church-conference-2026/>

**Feast of Lights Epiphany Service | Sun., Jan. 4, 2026 from 5–7 p.m. | St. Columba Episcopal Camp & Retreat Center (Memphis).** All are invited to join us for this year’s Feast of Lights Epiphany Service, a beloved tradition now in a new setting at St. Columba. This family-friendly outdoor worship service celebrates the revealing of Christ’s light to the world and will include youth lectors, a carol sing, and the commissioning of our new Diocesan Youth Council members. Following the service, gather around the bonfire for refreshments and fellowship as we welcome the Epiphany season together. Bundle up, bring your friends, and come share the light! St. Columba: 4577 Billy Maher Rd.; Memphis, TN