

Evening Prayer: Rite Two

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Opening Sentence (BCP 78)

Officiant: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:2

Confession of Sin (BCP 116)

Officiant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All: **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.

Priest: 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.

All: **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter (BCP 117)

Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.**

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron* (BCP 118)

All: **O gracious Light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Psalm Appointed (Psalm 111, BCP 754)

- 1 Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, *
 in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the Lord! *
 they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
 and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
 the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
 he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
 in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
 all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
 because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; *
 holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; *
 those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures for ever.

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

Reader: A reading from the letter of James. (3:13-18)

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis* (BCP 120)

All: **Lord, you now have set your servant free
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.
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

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Mark. (12:41-44)

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.'

Homily The Rev. Dr. Mark W. Frazier

The Apostles' Creed (BCP 120)

All: **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 121)

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

All: **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 (BCP 122)

Officiant: That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

All: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant: That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

All: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant: That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

All: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant: That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

All: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant: That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

All: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

Officiant: 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,

All: **We entreat you, O Lord.**

The Collects

The Collect for Francis de Sales and Jane de Chantal

Officiant: Most gracious God, who has bidden us to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before you; Grant that we, like your servants Francis and Jane, may see and serve Christ in all people, and know him as the giver of all good things; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All: **Amen.**

A Collect for Protection (BCP 124)

Officiant: O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen.**

Prayer for Mission (BCP 124)

Officiant: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give

rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.

All: **Amen.**

Announcements

The General Thanksgiving (BCP 125)

All: **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 126)

Officiant: 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.

All: **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Grace (BCP 126)

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

All: **Amen.**

Hagiography

Francis de Sales, Bishop & Jane de Chantal, Monastic ... James Kiefer, satucket.com

Francis de Sales was born in the Savoy district of France in 1567 and ordained a priest in 1593. At that time the religious and political struggles of the time had placed under the control of Roman Catholic rulers several regions in which the people were mostly Protestants. Francis was sent to preach in one such region near his birthplace, attempting to persuade his hearers to become Roman Catholics. Since he was seen to be persuasive, he was appointed in 1602 to be Roman Catholic bishop of Geneva, a Calvinist stronghold which had been captured by the Roman Catholic Duke of Savoy. Here again, he brought many to his way of thinking. His motto was, "He who preaches with love, preaches effectively." His numerous controversial tracts are unfailingly courteous to his opponents. Many Christians who are not at all convinced of the truth of the Romanist position by his arguments nevertheless read him with delight because of his obvious love for God and his neighbor.

By no means all of his writings were concerned with disputation. His best known and best loved treatises were concerned with the life of prayer and were written to advise those who wish to become more aware of the presence of God in their lives. His *Introduction to the Devout Life* was highly praised by John Wesley. C.S. Lewis has referred to the "dewy freshness" that permeates the book. It is available in English, as is his *The Love of God*. Both have been used and found helpful by Christians of many different denominations.

In 1604 he met a widow, Jane Frances de Chantal (born at Dijon, 1572, died 12 December 1641), and under his influence she founded a religious order of nuns called the

Order of the Visitation. Their correspondence is an outstanding example of mutual Christian encouragement and support.

Francis died at Lyons 29 December 1622. Since this date is already spoken for (Thomas a Becket), he is remembered with Jane de Chantal on 12 December.

Jane Frances de Chantal was born in Dijon, France, on 28 January 1572. She married the Baron de Chantal when she was 21 and then lived in the feudal castle of Bourbilly. Baron de Chantal was accidentally killed by an arquebus while out shooting in 1601. Left a widow at 28, with four children, the broken-hearted baroness took a vow of chastity. Her mother, stepmother, sister, first two children, and now her husband had died. Chantal gained a reputation as an excellent manager of the estates of her husband, while also providing alms and nursing care to needy neighbors.

The pious baroness could not bring herself to forgive the individual who had accidentally caused her husband's death, until in 1604 she heard a Lenten sermon of the bishop of Geneva Francis de Sales, who preached on the subject of the love of God at the Sainte Chapelle in Dijon. They became close friends and de Sales became her spiritual director. Later, with his support, and that of her father and brother (the archbishop of Bourges), and after providing for her children, Chantal left for Annecy, to start the Congregation of the Visitation. The order accepted women who were rejected by other orders because of poor health or age. During its first eight years, the new order also was unusual in its public outreach, in contrast to most female religious who remained cloistered and adopted strict ascetic practices.

Her reputation for sanctity and sound management resulted in many visits by (and donations from) aristocratic women. The order had 13 houses by the time de Sales died, and 86 before Chantal herself died at the Visitation Convent in Moulins, aged 69, on 13 December 1641.

More at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Frances_de_Chantal.