

## Evening Prayer: Rite Two

Thursday, May 7, 2026

### Opening Sentence (BCP 77)

*Officiant:* Christ has entered, not into a sanctuary made with hands, a copy of the true one, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

*Hebrews 9:24*

### 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 27:7-11, BCP 618)**

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*

he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head \*

above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; \*

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*

have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

*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**

*Reader:* A reading from the book of Isaiah. (49:13-18)

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.' Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. Your builders outdo your destroyers, and those who laid you waste go away from you. Lift up your eyes all around and see; they all gather, they

come to you. As I live, says the Lord, you shall put all of them on like an ornament, and like a bride you shall bind them on.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

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

### **The Song of Mary *Magnificat* (BCP 119)**

*All:* **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.  
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 Matthew. (23:37-39)

‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I

tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”

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 A (BCP 121)**

*Officiant:* Show us your mercy, O Lord;

*All:* **And grant us your salvation.**

*Officiant:* Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

*All:* **Let your people sing with joy.**

*Officiant:* Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*All:* **For only in you can we live in safety.**

*Officiant:* Lord, keep this nation under your care;

*All:* **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

*Officiant:* Let your way be known upon earth;

*All:* **Your saving health among all nations.**

*Officiant:* Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

*All:* **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

*Officiant:* Create in us clean hearts, O God;

*All:* **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## **The Collects**

*The Collect for Julian of Norwich*

*Officiant:* Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love: Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all.

*All:* **Amen.**

*A Collect for Aid against Perils (BCP 123)*

*Officiant:* Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

*All:* **Amen.**

### **Prayer for Mission (BCP 125)**

*Officiant:* O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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.**

## The Dismissal

*Officiant:* Let us bless the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.

## Grace

*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

**Dame Julian of Norwich, Contemplative**..... *James Kiefer*

The Lady Juliana was born about 1342, and when she was thirty years old, she became gravely ill and was expected to die. Then, on the seventh day, the medical crisis passed, and she had a series of fifteen visions, or "showings," in which she was led to contemplate the Passion of Christ. These brought her great peace and joy. She became an anchoress, living in a small hut near to the church in Norwich, where she devoted the rest of her life to prayer and contemplation of the meaning of her visions. The results of her meditations she wrote in a book called *Revelations of Divine Love*, available in modern English in a Penguin Paperback edition. During her lifetime, she became known as a counselor, whose advice combined spiritual insight with common sense, and many persons came to speak with her. Since her death, many more have found help in her writings.

The precise date of her death is uncertain.

Her book is a tender meditation on God's eternal and all-embracing love, as expressed to us in the Passion of Christ.

She describes seeing God holding a tiny thing in his hand, like a small brown nut, which seemed so fragile and insignificant that she wondered why it did not crumble before her eyes. She understood that the thing was the entire created universe, which is as nothing compared to its Creator, and she was told, "God made it, God loves it, God keeps it."

She was concerned that sometimes when we are faced with a difficult moral decision, it seems that no matter which way we decide, we will have acted from motives that are less than completely pure, so that neither decision is defensible. She finally wrote: "It is enough to be sure of the deed. Our courteous Lord will deign to redeem the motive."

A matter that greatly troubled her was the fate of those who through no fault of their own had never heard the Gospel. She never received a direct answer to her questions about them, except to be told that whatever God does is done in Love, and therefore "that all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well."

Speaking of her visions of heaven and hell, she said, "To me was shown no harder hell than sin."

Of our response to the sins of others, she said (ch. 76): "The soul that would preserve its peace, when another's sin is brought to mind, must fly from it as from the pains of hell, looking to God for help against it. To consider the sins of other people will produce a thick film over the eyes of our soul, and prevent us for the time being from seeing the 'fair beauty of the Lord'-- unless, that is, we look at them contrite along with the sinner, being sorry with and for him, and yearning over him for God. Without this it can only harm, disturb, and hinder the soul who considers them. I gathered all this from the revelation about compassion... This blessed friend is Jesus; it is his will and plan that we hang on to him, and hold tight always, in whatever circumstances; for whether we are filthy or clean is all the same to his love."

"Glad and merry and sweet is the blessed and lovely demeanour of our Lord towards our souls, for he saw us always living in love-longing, and he wants our souls to be gladly disposed toward him... by his grace he lifts up and will draw our outer disposition to our inward, and will make us all at unity with him, and each of us with others in the true, lasting joy which is Jesus."-- Julian of Norwich

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And from the time that [the vision] was shown, I desired often to know what our Lord's meaning was. And fifteen years and more afterward I was answered in my spiritual understanding, thus: 'Would you know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning. Who showed it to you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why

did he show it? For love. Keep yourself therein and you shall know and understand more in the same. But you shall never know nor understand any other thing, forever.'

Thus I was taught that love was our Lord's meaning. And I saw quite clearly in this and in all, that before God made us, he loved us, which love was never slaked nor ever shall be. And in this love he has done all his work, and in this love he has made all things profitable to us. And in this love our life is everlasting. In our creation we had a beginning. But the love wherein he made us was in him with no beginning. And all this shall be seen in God without end ...

*Revelations of Divine Love* is also available online,  
<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/julian/revelations.html>- *not in modern English*.

There is an Order of Julian of Norwich, <https://www.orderofjulian.org/>, within the Episcopal Church founded in Norwich, Conn., in 1982. It is an order of both men and women who follow the spirituality of Julian of Norwich. It is contemplative in that its purpose and goal is simply the practice and teaching of silent and intercessory prayer. The Order follows the traditional monastic vows of Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience, and adds a fourth vow: Prayer.