

Evening Prayer: Rite Two

Thursday, June 11, 2026

Opening Sentence (BCP 115)

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 68:11-18, BCP 677)

11 The Lord gave the word; *

great was the company of women who bore the tidings:

12 "Kings with their armies are fleeing away; *

the women at home are dividing the spoils."

13 Though you lingered among the sheepfolds, *

you shall be like a dove whose wings are covered with silver,
whose feathers are like green gold.

14 When the Almighty scattered kings, *

it was like snow falling in Zalmon.

15 O mighty mountain, O hill of Bashan! *

O rugged mountain, O hill of Bashan!

16 Why do you look with envy, O rugged mountain,

at the hill which God chose for his resting place? *
truly, the Lord will dwell there for ever.

17 The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; *

the Lord comes in holiness from Sinai.

18 You have gone up on high and led captivity captive;

you have received gifts even from your enemies, *
that the Lord God might dwell among them.

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 Job. (38:1-11)

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: ² ‘Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

‘Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

‘Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb?—when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped”?

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. (9:38-41)

John said to him, ‘Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.’ But Jesus said, ‘Do not stop him;

for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

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

A Collect for Ephrem of Nisibis

Officiant: Pour out upon us, O Lord, that same Spirit by which your deacon Ephrem declared the mysteries of faith in sacred song; that, with gladden hearts, we too might proclaim the riches of your glory; through 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 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 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.**

The Dismissal

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Grace

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

All: **Amen.**

Hagiography

Ephrem of Nisibis, Deacon and Hymn-writer *James Kiefer*

Ephrem (or Ephren or Ephraim or Ephrain) of Edessa [or Nisibis] was a teacher, poet, orator, and defender of the Faith. (To English-speakers, the most familiar form of his name will be "Ephraim." It is the name of the younger son of Joseph, son of Jacob (see Genesis 41:52), and is thus the name of one of the largest of the twelve tribes of Israel.) Edessa (now Urfa), a city in modern Turkey about 100 kilometers from Antioch (now Antakya), was an early center for the spread of Christian teaching in the East. It is said that in 325 he accompanied his bishop, James of Nisibis, to the Council of Nicea. Certainly his writings are an eloquent defense of the Nicene faith in the Deity of Jesus Christ. He countered the Gnostics' practice of spreading their message through popular songs by composing Christian songs and hymns of his own, with great effect. He is known to the Syrian church as "the harp of the Holy Spirit."

Ephrem retired to a cave outside Edessa, where he lived in great simplicity and devoted himself to writing. He frequently went into the city to preach. During a famine in 372-3 he worked distributing food to the hungry and organizing a sort of ambulance service for the sick. He worked long hours at this, and became exhausted and sick, and so died.

Of his writings there remain 72 hymns, commentaries on the Old and New Testaments, and numerous sermons.

Several hymns are available at: <http://www.voskrese.info/spl/XefremSyria.html>

Among Orthodox he is best known for a fasting prayer:

THE PRAYER OF ST EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and Master of my life, do not give me the spirit of laziness, meddling, self-importance and idle talk. (prostration)

Instead, grace me, Your servant, with the spirit of modesty, humility, patience, and love. (prostration)

Indeed, my Lord and King, grant that I may see my own faults, and not condemn my brothers and sisters, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

(prostration)

(Twelve deep bows, saying each time: O God, be gracious to me, a sinner.)

[Translation by Fr. James Silver, Drew University; posted on the Orthodox list]

[text of two hymns omitted]