

Prayers before Any Office

Grant, O Lord, that what we say with our lips we may believe in our hearts and practice in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Open, Lord, my mouth to bless Thy holy Name; cleanse my heart from all vain, foolish, wandering thoughts; enlighten my understanding; enkindle my affections that I may say this office with attention and devotion and so may be meet to be heard before the presence of Thy divine majesty; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers after Any Office

Guide us, O Lord, in all our doings with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help that in all our work begun, continued, and ended in Thee we may glorify Thy holy Name and finally by Thy mercy obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To Thee, O Lord, I commend the service which I, an unworthy sinner, have offered up unto Thee, God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and according to the fulness of Thy love and wisdom fulfill my petitions; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Collect for the Festival of St. Lucia of Syracuse, Virgin and Martyr

Hear us, O God, our Savior, so that as we rejoice on the Festival of the Blessed Saint Lucia of Syracuse, Thy Virgin and Martyr, we might therefore be taught pious devotion by the means of love; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Collect for Advent

Stir up, we beseech Thee, Thy power, O Lord, and come, that by Thy protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Thy mighty deliverance; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.



Midweek Advent Vespers
December 13th, 2017

Sts. Peter & Paul Ev. Luth. Church, U.A.C.

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*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden
in a field.” St. Matthew 13:44*

The Office of Vespers

The Ringing of the Bell		
Silent Prayer		
The Hymn	<i>“A Pilgrim and a Stranger”</i>	TLH 586
<i>Stand</i>		
The Opening Versicles		TLH p. 41
The Psalmody	Psalm 91	INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
The Lection		Ecclesiasticus 51:1-7 2 Corinthians 10:17—11:2 St. Matthew 13:44-52
The Response	<i>(After each reading)</i>	TLH p. 42
The Hymn	<i>“For Thee, O Dear, Dear Country”</i>	TLH 614
The Sermon	<i>The Kingdom of Heaven</i>	
The Recitation of the Catechism	The Sacrament of Holy Baptism	
The Offering		
The Rite of Reception of Members by Affirmation of Faith		
The Office Hymn	<i>“Jerusalem the Golden”</i>	TLH 613
<i>Stand</i>		
The Versicle		TLH p. 43
The Canticle	<i>“The Magnificat”</i>	TLH p. 43
The Litany		INSERT
The Salutation		TLH p. 45
The Collect for the Day		Back Cover
The Collect for Advent		Back Cover
Other Collects <i>(if necessary)</i>		
The Collect for Peace		TLH p. 45
The Litany Collect		INSERT
The Benedicamus		TLH p. 45
The Benediction		TLH p. 45
Silent Prayer		

Ecclesiasticus 51:1-7

¹ I will thank You, O Lord and King, and praise You, O God my Savior: I do give praise to Your name: ² For You are my defender and helper, and have preserved my body from destruction, and from the snare of the slanderous tongue, and from the lips that forge lies, and have been my helper against my adversaries: ³ And have delivered me, according to the multitude of Your mercies and greatness of Your name, from the teeth of them that were ready to devour me, and out of the hands of those who sought after my life, and from the manifold afflictions which I had; ⁴ From the choking of fire on every side, and from the midst of the fire which I kindled not; ⁵ From the depth of the belly of hell, from an unclean tongue, and from lying words. ⁶ By an accusation to the king from an unrighteous tongue my soul drew near even unto death, my life was near to the hell beneath. ⁷ They compassed me on every side, and there was no man to help me: I looked for the help of men, but there was none.

2 Corinthians 10:17—11:2

^{10:17} But “he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.” ¹⁸ For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

^{11:1} Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. ² For I am jealous

for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

St. Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, ⁴⁸ which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰ and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, “Have you understood all these things?” They said to Him, “Yes, Lord.” ⁵² Then He said to them, “Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.”

Psalm 91

Psalm Tone VI

Flex



P: HE **WHO** - || dwells in the secret place of | the | Most | High *

C: Shall abide under the shadow of | the | **Al-** - | might- | y.

P: || I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and | my | fort- | ress; *

C: My God, in | Him | **I** - | will | trust.”

P: || Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of | the | fowl- | er *

C: And from the peril- | ous | **pest-** - | i- | lence.

P: || He shall cover you with His feath -ers, (+) and under His wings you shall | take | re- | fuge; *

C: His truth shall be your | shield | **and** - | buck- | ler.

P: || You shall not be afraid of the ter- | ror | by | night, *

C: Nor of the arrow | that | **flies** - | by | day,

P: || Nor of the pestilence that walks | in | dark- | ness, *

C: Nor of the destruction that lays | waste | **at** - | noon- | day.

P: || A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at | your | right | hand; *

C: But it shall | not | **come** - | near | you.

P: || Only with your eyes | shall | you | look, *

C: And see the reward | of | **the** - | wick- | ed.

P: || Because you have made the Lord, who is | my | re- | fuge, *

C: Even the Most High, | your | **dwel-** - | ing | place,

P: || No evil shall | be- | fall | you, *

C: Nor shall any plague come | near | **your** - | dwell- | ing;

P: || For He shall give His angels charge | o- | ver | you, *

C: To keep you | in | **all** - | your | ways.

P: || In their hands they shall | bear | you | up, *

C: Lest you dash your foot | a- | **gainst** - | a | stone.

P: || You shall tread upon the lion and | the | co- | bra, *

C: The young lion and the serpent you shall tram- | ple | **un-** - | der- | foot.

P: || “Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will de- | liv- | er | him; *

C: I will set him on high, because he | has | **known** - | My | name.

P: || He shall call upon Me, and I will | ans- | wer | him; *

C: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him | and | **hon-** - | or | him.

P: || With long life I will sat- | is- | fy | him, *

C: And show him | My | **sal-** - | va- | tion.”

ALL: GLO- **RY** - || be to the Father, and | to | the | Son, *

And to | the | **Ho-** - | ly | Ghost;

AS IT - || was in the begin -ning, (+) is now, and ev- | er | shall | be *

World with- | out | **end.** - | A- | men.

P: || He who dwells in the secret place of | the | Most | High *

C: Shall abide under the shadow of | the | **Al-** - | might- | y.

TLH 586 “A Pilgrim and a Stranger”

Johann Gerhardt, 1666

1. A pilgrim and a stranger,
I journey here below;
Far distant is my country,
The home to which I go.
Here I must toil and travail,
Oft weary and opprest;
But there my God shall lead me
To everlasting rest.

2. I've met with storms and danger
E'en from my early years,
With enemies and conflicts,
With fightings and with fears.
There's nothing here that tempts me
To wish a longer stay,
So I must hasten forward,
No halting or delay.

3. It is a well-worn pathway;
A host has gone before,
The holy saints and prophets,
The patriarchs of yore.
They trod the toilsome journey
In patience and in faith;
And them I fain would follow,
Like them in life and death.

4. Who would share Abraham's blessing
Must Abraham's path pursue,
A stranger and a pilgrim,
Like him, must journey thro'.
The foes must be encountered,
The dangers must be passed;
A faithful soldier only
Receives the crown at last.

5. So I must hasten forward,—
Thank God, the end will come!
This land of passing shadows
Is not my destined home.
The everlasting city,
Jerusalem above,
This evermore abideth,
The home of light and love.

6. There still my thoughts are dwelling,
'Tis there I long to be;
Come, Lord, and call Thy servant
To blessedness with Thee.
Come, bid my toils be ended,
Let all my wand'rings cease;

Call from the wayside lodging
To Thy sweet home of peace.

7. There I shall dwell forever,
No more a parting guest,
With all thy blood-bought children
In everlasting rest,
The pilgrim toils forgotten,
The pilgrim conflicts o'er,
All earthly griefs behind me,
Eternal joys before. Amen.

TLH 614 “For Thee, O Dear, Dear Country”

Bernard of Morlas, about 1140

1. For thee, O dear, dear country,
Mine eyes their vigils keep;
For very love, beholding
Thy happy name, they weep.
The mention of thy glory
Is unction to the breast
And medicine in sickness
And love and life and rest.

2. O one, O only mansion,
O Paradise of joy,
Where tears are ever banished
And smiles have no alloy!
The Lamb is all thy splendor,
The Crucified thy praise;
His laud and benediction
Thy ransomed people raise.

3. With jasper glow thy bulwarks,
Thy streets with em'ralds blaze;
The sardius and the topaz
Unite in thee their rays;
Thine ageless walls are bonded
With amethyst unpriced;
The saints build up thy fabric,
The cornerstone is Christ.

4. Thou hast no shore, fair ocean;
Thou hast no time, bright day,
Dear fountain of refreshment
To pilgrims far away!
Upon the Rock of Ages
They raise thy holy tower;
Thine is the victor's laurel
And thine the golden dower.

5. O sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country

That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest,
Who art, with God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest. Amen.

TLH 613 “Jerusalem the Golden”

Bernard of Morlas, about 1140

1. Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest,
Beneath thy contemplation
Sink heart and voice opprest.
I know not, oh, I know not,
What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory,
What bliss beyond compare.

2. They stand, those halls of Zion,
All jubilant with song
And bright with many an angel
And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them;
The daylight is serene;
The pastures of the blessed
Are decked in glorious sheen.

3. There is the throne of David;
And there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph,
The song of them that feast;
And they who with their Leader
Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever
Are clad in robes of white.

4. O sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
O sweet and blessed country
That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest,
Who art, with God the Father
And Spirit, ever blest. Amen.