

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. Thomas, Apostle

Almighty and Ever-Living God, Who through the Word of Thy Son didst mightily strengthen the faith of Thine Apostle Saint Thomas: by the same Word keep us ever steadfast in the faith unto our end; through Jesus Christ, Thy dear 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 20th, 2017

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

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*“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands;
and reach your hand here, and put it into My
side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”*

St. John 20:27

The Office of Vespers

The Ringing of the Bell		
Silent Prayer		
The Hymn	<i>“All Men Living Are But Mortal”</i>	TLH 601
<i>Stand</i>		
The Opening Versicles		TLH p. 41
The Psalmody	Psalm 98	INSERT
<i>Sit</i>		
The Lection		Judges 6:36-40 Ephesians 1:3-6 St. John 20:24-31
The Response	<i>(After each reading)</i>	TLH p. 42
The Hymn	<i>“The World Is Very Evil”</i>	TLH 605
The Sermon	<i>That Believing You May Have Life</i>	
The Recitation of the Catechism	The Sacrament of the Altar	
The Offering		
The Office Hymn	<i>“I Fall Asleep in Jesus’ Wounds”</i>	TLH 585
<i>Stand</i>		
The Versicle		TLH p. 43
“O” Antiphon		TLH 62, st. 4
The Canticle	<i>“The Magnificat”</i>	TLH p. 43
“O” Antiphon		TLH 62, st. 4
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		

Judges 6:36-40

³⁶ So Gideon said to God, “If You will save Israel by my hand as You have said—³⁷ look, I shall put a fleece of wool on the threshing floor; if there is dew on the fleece only, and it is dry on all the ground, then I shall know that You will save Israel by my hand, as You have said.” ³⁸ And it was so. When he rose early the next morning and squeezed the fleece together, he wrung the dew out of the fleece, a bowlful of water. ³⁹ Then Gideon said to God, “Do not be angry with me, but let me speak just once more: Let me test, I pray, just once more with the fleece; let it now be dry only on the fleece, but on all the ground let there be dew.” ⁴⁰ And God did so that night. It was dry on the fleece only, but there was dew on all the ground.

Ephesians 1:3-6

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.

St. John 20:24-31

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” ³⁰ And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Psalm 98



P: OH, **SING** - || to the | Lord | a | new | song! *

C: For He has done | mar- | ve- | **lous** - | things.

P: || His right hand | and | His | *ho-ly* · | arm *

C: Have gained Him | the | vic- | **to**- - | ry.

P: || The Lord has made known | His | sal- | va- | tion; *

C: His righteousness He has revealed in the sight | of | the | **na**- - | tions.

P: || He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the | house | of | *Is-ra-* · | el; *

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salva- | tion | of | **our** - | God.

P: || Shout joyfully to the | Lord, | all | the | earth; *

C: Break forth in song, rejoice, | and | sing | **prais**- - | es.

P: || Sing to the | Lord | with | the | harp, *

C: With the harp and the | sound | of | **a** - | psalm,

P: || With trumpets and the | sound | of | a | horn; *

C: Shout joyfully before | the | Lord, | **the** - | King.

P: || Let the sea roar, and | all | its | full- | ness, *

C: The world and those | who | dwell | **in** - | it;

P: || Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together | be- | fore | the | Lord, *

C: For He is coming | to | judge | **the** - | earth.

P: || With righteousness He | shall | judge | the | world, *

C: And the peoples | with | e- | **qui**- - | ty.

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.

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TLH 601 "All Men Living Are But Mortal"

Johann G. Albinus, 1652

1. All men living are but mortal,
Yea, all flesh must fade as grass;
Only thro' death's gloomy portal
To eternal life we pass.
This frail body here must perish
Ere the heav'nly joys it cherish,
Ere it gain the free reward
For the ransomed of the Lord.

2. Therefore, when my God doth choose it,
Willingly I'll yield my life
Nor will grieve that I should lose it,
For with sorrows it was rife.
In my dear Redeemer's merit
Peace hath found my troubled spirit,
And in death my comfort this:
Jesus' death my source of bliss.

3. Jesus for my sake descended
My salvation to obtain;
Death and Hell for me are ended,
Peace and hope are now my gain;
Yea, with joy I leave Earth's sadness
For the home of heav'nly gladness,
Where I shall forever see
God, the Holy Trinity.

4. There is joy beyond our telling,
Where so many saints have gone;
Thousands, thousands, there are dwelling,
Worshiping before the throne,
There the seraphim are shining,
Evermore in chorus joining:
"Holy, holy, holy, Lord!
Triune God, for aye adored!"

5. Patriarchs of sacred story
And the prophets there are found;
The apostles, too, in glory
On twelve seats are there enthroned
All the saints that have ascended
Age on age, through time extended,
There in blissful concert sing
Hallelujahs to their King.

6. O Jerusalem, how glorious
Dost thou shine, thou city fair!
Lo, I hear the tones victorious
Ever sweetly sounding there.
Oh, the bliss that there surprises!
Lo, the sun of morn now rises,

And the breaking day I see
That shall never end for me.

7. Yea, I see what here was told me,
See that wondrous glory shine,
Feel the spotless robes enfold me,
Know a golden crown is mine.
Thus before the throne so glorious
Now I stand a soul victorious,
Gazing on that joy for aye
That shall never pass away. Amen.

TLH 605 "The World Is Very Evil"

Bernard of Morlas, about 1140

1. The world is very evil,
The times are waxing late;
Be sober and keep vigil,
The Judge is at the gate;
The Judge that comes in mercy,
The Judge that comes with might,
To terminate the evil,
To diadem the right.

2. Arise, arise, good Christian,
Let right to wrong succeed;
Let penitential sorrow
To heav'nly gladness lead,
To light that hath no evening,
That knows no moon nor sun,
The light so new and golden,
The light that is but one.

3. O home of fadeless splendor,
Of flow'rs that bear no thorn,
Where they shall dwell as children
Who here as exiles mourn.
Midst pow'r that knows no limit,
Where knowledge has no bound,
The beatific vision
Shall glad the saints around.

4. Strive, man, to win that glory;
Toil, man, to gain that light;
Send hope before to grasp it
Till hope be lost in sight.
Exult, O dust and ashes,
The Lord shall be thy part;
His only, His forever,
Thou shalt be and thou art.

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 585 “I Fall Asleep in Jesus’ Wounds”

Ascribed to Paul Eber, died 1569

1. I fall asleep in Jesus’ wounds,
There pardon for my sins abounds;
Yea, Jesus’ blood and righteousness
My jewels are, my glorious dress.
In these before my God I’ll stand
When I shall reach the heav’nly land.

2. With peace and joy I now depart;
God’s child I am with all my heart.
I thank thee, Death, thou leadest me
To that true life where I would be.
So cleansed by Christ, I fear not death.
Lord Jesus, strengthen Thou my faith. Amen.

**“O” Antiphon TLH 62 “Oh, Come, Oh, Come,
Emmanuel”, St. 4**

Unknown Latin author, about 1100

4. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.