

**St. John the Divine Episcopal Church  
Morning Prayer**

**Burlington, WI**

*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**

*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. Amen.*

*Officiant*      Let us bless the Lord.  
*People*        Thanks be to God.

*Officiant*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

*Ephesians 3:20,21*

**Sending Forth Hymn**    *Please stand as you are able.*

***Feeding God's people: Body, Mind, and Spirit***

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The Rt. Rev. Steven Miller, Bishop

*Kevin Monteith, Organist*

## First Things First

We're delighted you're here, and we want you to come back. However, we suspect you may have some questions. Everybody you see around you was a newcomer at one time or another, and we've all had questions – probably the very same ones. So, don't hesitate to ask a question! We want you to be comfortable so you can worship God and enjoy your visit today. You can't do that if you're wondering what to do next, or trying "to do everything right," which usually means doing the same things everybody else is doing. So, relax!

## The Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Church strives to live by the message of Jesus Christ, in which there are no outcasts and all people are welcome. Walking a middle way between Roman Catholicism and Protestant traditions, we are a sacramental and worship-oriented church that promotes thoughtful debate about what God is calling us to do and be, as followers of Christ.

## The Three Rules for Worship

**The first rule is:** When you're worshipping God, you can't get it wrong!

**The second rule is:** If you need help, ask the people next to you. We like people here at St. John the Divine.

**The last rule is:** Regardless of what anybody else is doing, don't do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. You may do whatever makes you feel comfortable. You shouldn't do anything that doesn't.

## Some Basic Questions

***What are these books in the rack in front of me?***

The red book is the [Book of Common Prayer](#). It provides liturgies, prayers and instructions so that all members of the church may share common worship.

Our 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM services use a pre-printed worship booklet, but all of the text for both of those services comes from the Prayer Book. The blue book is the [1982 Hymnal](#). The green book, [Gather](#), is the more contemporary hymnal. The hymn numbers are provided in the bulletin insert the usher gave you, and on the hymn boards at the front of the church. Hymn numbers, only, refer to the blue [1982 Hymnal](#); "G" indicates the use of [Gather](#) hymnal. The black book you might recognize as [The Holy Bible](#).

***Why do some people bow or kneel before entering the pews, and others don't do anything at all?***

What you're noticing is called "reverencing" and people have different ways of doing it. Some bow in the direction of the altar, some "genuflect" (touch their knee to the floor), others reverence silently or without gesture. It's like we said, do whatever helps you to worship; don't do what ever hinders that.

***There's an awful lot of stuff in this church.***

That's true. The Episcopal way of worshipping exercises all of the senses – sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste. We like to think of it as involving every part of us in worship, giving God a lot of ways to reach us.

***Why do some people touch their fingers to their forehead and shoulders?***

Again, this is a personal worship style. This is called making the sign of the cross. Some people do it out of habit, others because it reminds them of the price Jesus paid to enable us to respond to God's love; still others because it's their way of "taking up their own cross" and following him. You will see them doing this at times during the service, too. But you don't have to cross yourself just because others do.

***This all looks very Catholic to me. Is this a Roman Catholic Church?***

No. Yes. Well, that's a hard one to answer in a booklet like this. Although the ancient Church from which the Episcopal Church sprang was Roman Catholic, the present-day Episcopal Church has practices and beliefs that are distinctly different from those of the Roman Catholic Church. The important thing, however, is our worship of God.

***Hey, I just want to know one thing. Is anybody going to make me stand up and give my name or anything like that?***

No. Not because we don't care; in fact, you will find we care very much. We just don't want to embarrass you or make you uncomfortable. But we hope you will fill out our newcomer card and leave it with an usher or on a table near an exit.

***What is Morning Prayer?***

Daily gathering for prayer with community or with God has been a part of the Church since the earliest days. Daily offices grew from these gatherings and by the 6th century were part of the fabric of the Church. Within our Book of Common Prayer (BCP) there are four Daily Offices. Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline (Night Prayer). Anglican Morning and Evening Prayer were created by Archbishop Cranmer in about 1549, as services of praise and prayer. They were for celebrating the light of Christ in the world with the first light of the morning and the lamp lighting at evening, which symbolized Christ's eternal light that cannot be put out. They were, and still are today, intended to be the regular services for daily worship and part of the fabric of our daily lives.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. *For we put our trust in you.*

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. *And we shall never hope in vain.*

**Collect of the Day: *See Reading Insert (Prayed by Officiant)***

**Collect for Mission *(Prayed by Officiant)***

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*People                      Amen.*

## General Prayers

*At this time members of the congregation are invited to offer prayers and thanksgivings to God.*

## Announcements and Blessings

**Prayer for food and other gifts given for those in need.**

**Offering Hymn** *Please stand as you are able. An Offering will be taken and brought forward. Then the following prayers are offered by the congregation.*

**The General Thanksgiving *(We pray together)***

*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;*

*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** *Suffrages are short sentences, often drawn from the Psalter, that are said or sung antiphonally in worship. Typically the versicle (V) is said or sung by the Officiant, with the response made by the congregation. The Officiant will choose one of the following to pray:*

**A.**

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
- R. *And grant us your salvation.*
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
- R. *Let your people sing with joy.*
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
- R. *For only in you can we live in safety.*
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
- R. *And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
- R. *Your saving health among all nations.*
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
- R. *Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
- R. *And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

**B.**

- V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
- R. *Govern them and uphold them, now and always.*
- V. Day by day we bless you;
- R. *We praise your name for ever.*
- V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
- R. *Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.*

*Please note that there may not be hymns. The Officiant will announce if there is congregational singing. We use two hymnals. One is the blue hard cover 1982 hymnal. Hymns in this hymnal have the number followed by (blue hard cover hymnal). Hymns with an 'S' before the number are in the front of the blue 1982 hymnal. The other is the green hard cover Gather hymnal. Hymns in this hymnal have a 'G' before the number followed by (green hard cover hymnal). The Officiant will enter either from the side or up the main aisle. Please stand as you are able.*

**Gathering Hymn** *Please stand as you are able as we sing.*

*Officiant says one of the following, depending on the season:*

*Advent*

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. *Isaiah 40:3*

*Christmas*

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy, which will come to all the people; for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10, 11*

*Epiphany*

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

*Lent*

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, because we have rebelled against him and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws which he set before us. (*Daniel 9:9, 10*)

*Holy Week*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow which was brought upon me, whom the Lord hath afflicted. *Lamentations 1:12*

*Easter Season*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

*At any Time*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 1:2 3*

## Confession of Sin

*Officiant says to the people*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Officiant and People together, all kneeling as able.*

*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.*

*Presider*

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

*The People of God*                      *Amen.*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Please stand as you are able .*

*Officiant*                      Lord, open our lips.

*People*                      *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

*Officiant and People*

*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.*

*Officiant says one of the following depending on the season:*

## The Gospel

*Reader*                      The Word of the Lord

*People*                      *Thanks be to God.*

## Reflection (Optional)

### The Apostle's Creed (Please stand as you are able)

*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 Please stand or kneel as you are able and desire

*Officiant*                      The Lord be with you.

*People*                      *And also with you.*

*Officiant*                      Let us pray.

*Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,*

## Second Reading

Reader       The Word of the Lord.  
People        *Thanks be to God.*

*We say together the following Canticle*

### Canticle 21 You are God

*You are God: we praise you;  
You are the Lord; we acclaim you;  
You are the eternal Father:  
All creation worships you.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;  
Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you became man to set us free  
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.*

*Advent*

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.  
*People of God        Come let us adore him.*

*Christmas*

Alleluia. To us a child is born:  
*People of God        O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.*

*Lent*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:  
*People of God        Come let us adore him.*

*Easter to Ascension*

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:  
*People of God        Come let us adore him. Alleluia.*

*Any other time*

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:  
*People of God        Come let us adore him.*

*We say together the following:*

### Venite

*Come let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.  
Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,*

*and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \**  
*Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*  
*Glory be to the Father and to the Son,*  
*And to the Holy Spirit.*  
*As it was in the beginning, is now,*  
*And will be forever. Amen.*

**Antiphon** (*Officiant and People say together*)

*Officiant says one of the following depending on the season:*

*Advent*

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

*People of God*      *Come let us adore him.*

*Christmas*

Alleluia. To us a child is born:

*People of God*      *O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.*

*Lent*

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:

*People of God*      *Come let us adore him.*

*Easter to Ascension*

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed:

*People of God*      *Come let us adore him. Alleluia.*

*Any other time*

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

*People of God*      *Come let us adore him.*

**The Psalms Appointed**

*The officiant will announce the psalms and their location in the Book of Common Prayer. At the conclusion of the psalms, the people pray together:*

*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**

**First Reading**

*Reader*      *The Word of the Lord.*

*People*      *Thanks be to God.*

*We say together the following Cantic*

**Cantic 16 The Song of Zechariah**

*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;\**  
*he has come to his people and set them free.*  
*He has raised up for us a mighty savior,\**  
*born of the house of his servant David.*  
*Through his holy prophets he promised of old,*  
*that he would save us from our enemies,\**  
*from the hands of all who hate us.*  
*he promised to show mercy to our fathers\**  
*and to remember his holy covenant.*  
*This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,\**  
*to set us free from the hands of our enemies,*  
*Free to worship him without fear,\**  
*holy and righteous in his sight*  
*all the days of our life.*  
*You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,\**  
*for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,*  
*To give his people knowledge of salvation\**  
*by the forgiveness of their sins.*  
*In the tender compassion of our God\**  
*the dawn from on high shall break upon us,*  
*To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,\**  
*and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*  
*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.*