

# Live streamed Evening Prayer - St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan December 7, 2022

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

**Confession of Sin:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence for a moment)*  
**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.**

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. **Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**  
**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. Alleluia.**

## **Phos Hilaron:**

O gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ, in you the Father's glory shone.  
Immortal, holy, blest is he, and blest are you. his holy Son.

Now sunset comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.  
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God who dwells in the eternal light.

Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;  
wherefore you are through all the earth and in the highest heaven adored.

## **Psalter:**

### **Psalm 119: 25-48**

My soul clings to the dust; \* revive me according to your word.  
When I told of my ways, you answered me; \* teach me your statutes.  
Make me understand the way of your precepts, \* and I will meditate on your wondrous works.  
My soul melts away for sorrow; \* strengthen me according to your word.  
Put false ways far from me; \* and graciously teach me your law.  
I have chosen the way of faithfulness; \* I set your ordinances before me.  
I cling to your decrees, O Lord; \* let me not be put to shame.  
I run the way of your commandments, \* for you enlarge my understanding.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, \* and I will observe it to the end.  
Give me understanding, that I may keep your law \* and observe it with my whole heart.  
Lead me in the path of your commandments, \* for I delight in it.  
Turn my heart to your decrees, \* and not to selfish gain.  
Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; \* give me life in your ways.  
Confirm to your servant your promise, \* which is for those who fear you.  
Turn away the disgrace that I dread, \* for your ordinances are good.  
See, I have longed for your precepts; \* in your righteousness give me life.

Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, \* your salvation according to your promise.  
Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, \* for I trust in your word.  
Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, \* for my hope is in your ordinances.  
I will keep your law continually, \* for ever and ever.  
I shall walk at liberty, \* for I have sought your precepts.  
I will also speak of your decrees before kings, \* and shall not be put to shame;  
I find my delight in your commandments, \* because I love them.  
I revere your commandments, which I love, \* and I will meditate on your statutes.

**1st Reading:                    *Isaiah 6: 1-13***

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' And he said, 'Go and say to this people: "Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand." Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.' Then I said, 'How long, O Lord?' And he said: 'Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate; until the Lord sends everyone far away, and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land. Even if a tenth part remains in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.' The holy seed is its stump.

**Canticle:                    *The Song of Mary - Luke 1: 46-55***

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.

**2nd Reading:                    *John 7: 53-8: 11***

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

**Canticle:                    *The Song of Simeon - Luke 2: 29-32***

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.

***Apostles' Creed:***

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.

Officiant            The Lord be with you.

**People                *And also with you.***

Officiant            Let us pray.

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.***

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

***Collects:***

***for Ambrose:*** O God, you gave your servant Ambrose grace eloquently to proclaim your righteousness in the great congregation, and fearlessly to bear reproach for the honor of your Name: Mercifully grant to all bishops and pastors such excellence in preaching and faithfulness in ministering your Word, that your people may be partakers with them of the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***for Advent:*** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***for Mission:*** O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn 68** Rejoice! rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh; up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry. | See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil; look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil. The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand; rise up, ye heirs of glory, the Bridegroom is at hand! | Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere! With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee!

***Intercessions:***

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

***General Thanksgiving:***

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.

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

***Blessing:*** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

**Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**