

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Evening Prayer: Rite Two  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

*Opening Sentences*

**Confession of Sin**

Officiant: Dear friends in Christ, here in the presence of Almighty God, let us kneel in silence, and with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, so that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

*[Officiant leads and people join in]*

**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.**

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

*[A deacon or lay person using the preceding form remains kneeling, and substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."]*

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

*Officiant: O God, make speed to save us.*

**People: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

[OFFICIANT AND PEOPLE 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.**

**O Gracious Light (unison)**

**O gracious Light,**

**pure brightness of the ever living 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.**

**Psalm 119:25-48. .... BCP 765**

**25 My soul cleaves to the dust; \***  
**give me life according to your word.**

**26 I have confessed my ways, and you answered me; \*  
instruct me in your statutes.**

27 Make me understand the way of your commandments, \*  
that I may meditate on your marvelous works.

**28 My soul melts away for sorrow; \*  
strengthen me according to your word.**

29 Take from me the way of lying; \*  
let me find grace through your law.

**30 I have chosen the way of faithfulness; \*  
I have set your judgments before me.**

31 I hold fast to your decrees; \*  
O Lord, let me not be put to shame.

**32 I will run the way of your commandments, \*  
for you have set my heart at liberty.**

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, \*  
and I shall keep it to the end.

**34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, \*  
for that is my desire.

**36 Incline my heart to your decrees \*  
and not to unjust gain.**

37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; \*  
give me life in your ways.

**38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, \*  
which you make to those who fear you.**

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, \*  
because your judgments are good.

**40 Behold, I long for your commandments; \*  
in your righteousness preserve my life.**

41 Let your loving-kindness come to me, O Lord, \*  
and your salvation, according to your promise.

**42 Then shall I have a word for those who taunt me, \*  
because I trust in your words.**

43 Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth, \*  
for my hope is in your judgments.

**44 I shall continue to keep your law; \*  
I shall keep it for ever and ever.**

45 I will walk at liberty, \*  
because I study your commandments.

**46 I will tell of your decrees before kings \*  
and will not be ashamed.**

47 I delight in your commandments, \*  
which I have always loved.

**48 I will lift up my hands to your commandments, \*  
and I will meditate on your statutes.**

[OFFICIANT AND PEOPLE 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 First Lesson. . . . . John 3:22-36**

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were

being baptized— John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison.

Now a discussion about purification arose between John's disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.' John answered, 'No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, "I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him." He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.'

The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks about earthly things. The one who comes from heaven is above all. He testifies to what he has seen and heard, yet no one accepts his testimony. Whoever has accepted his testimony has certified this, that God is true. He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has placed all things in his hands. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever disobeys the Son will not see life, but must endure God's wrath.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Canticle

The Song of Simeon

*Nunc dimittis*

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.*

Meditation . . . . . Brian Wood

*The 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.**

***The Prayers***

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

*Officiant and People:*

**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 B**

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.**

### *A Collect for the Presence of Christ*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day  
is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and  
awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in  
Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake  
of your love. *Amen.*

### *A Collect for Protection*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

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. *Amen.*

*[authorized intercessions and thanksgivings may follow]*

### *The General Thanksgiving*

[Officiant and people]

**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 (Officiant only)*

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.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

*Romans 15:13*

**SERVING US TODAY:**

Officiant: Walter Michael

Meditation: Brian Wood

Reader/Voice of the People: Delores Wood