

These are a few pointers that might be of help if you are not familiar with Evening Prayer. This long-standing prayer service is found in the Book of Common Prayer. You can find a free electronic version at <https://bcponline.org/>

We invite you to have a Bible at your side and marked for the various lessons.

Fred Alexius leads us as we begin on **page 116 with this Opening Sentence:** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." *John 8:12*

We move to the on the **Invitatory and Psalter - on page 117.**

We pray in unison the *Phos hilaron* - on page 118.

Babs Leggett will lead us in **praying Psalm 34, responsively by whole verse.**

Babs reads from the **Wisdom of Sirach (5.1-5;14-16).**

We pray in unison the **Nunc dimittis - on page 120.**

Babs reads from **the Gospel of Matthew (20.1-16).**

We affirm our faith in the words of **The Apostles' Creed - on page 120.**

We pray the **Lord's Prayer** in unison- on page 121.

Babs leads us as we **pray Suffrages A responsively - on pages 121-122.**

Fred prays the **Collect for Sundays - on page 123.**

Babs prays the **Collect for the Presence of Christ - on page 124.**

Fred prays for the **Mission of the Church - on page 124.**

Babs invites our prayers and thanksgivings - on page 125.

We pray **The General Thanksgiving** in unison - on page 125.

We pray **A Prayer of St. Chrysostom** in unison - on page 126.

Fred then ends the service with the dismissal.

We will share in a brief, virtual "Narthex time" to greet one another following the service, when you can say hello to fellow parishioners.

People pray/respond in bold.

34 *Benedicam Dominum*

1 I will bless the Lord at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

**2 I will glory in the Lord; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.**

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; *
let us exalt his Name together.

**4 I sought the Lord, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.**

5 Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.

**6 I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.**

7 The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him, *
and he will deliver them.

**8 Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!**

9 Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.

**10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger, *
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

11 Come, children, and listen to me; *
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

**12 Who among you loves life *
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

13 Keep your tongue from evil-speaking *
and your lips from lying words.

**14 Turn from evil and do good; *
seek peace and pursue it.**

15 The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.

**16 The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, *
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.**

17 The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.

**18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.**

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.

**20 He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.**

21 Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.**

At the end of the Psalms is said:

**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.**

A reading from the Wisdom of Sirach

(51.13-22)

While I was still young, before I went on my travels,

I sought wisdom openly in my prayer.

¹⁴ Before the temple I asked for her,
and I will search for her until the end.

¹⁵ From the first blossom to the ripening grape
my heart delighted in her;
my foot walked on the straight path;
from my youth I followed her steps.

¹⁶ I inclined my ear a little and received her,
and I found for myself much instruction.

¹⁷ I made progress in her;
to him who gives wisdom I will give glory.

¹⁸ For I resolved to live according to wisdom,*
and I was zealous for the good,
and I shall never be disappointed.
¹⁹ My soul grappled with wisdom,*
and in my conduct I was strict;*

I spread out my hands to the heavens,
and lamented my ignorance of her.
²⁰ I directed my soul to her,
and in purity I found her.

With her I gained understanding from the first;
therefore I will never be forsaken.
²¹ My heart was stirred to seek her;
therefore I have gained a prize possession.
²² The Lord gave me my tongue as a reward,
and I will praise him with it.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

(20.1-16)

Jesus said, 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; ⁴and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" ⁷They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." ¹³But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.