The Intercessory Prayer Group invites you to join us praying wherever you may be every Monday evening at 5:30. We pray for the St. James’ church family, our community and for the world, using the Book of Common Prayer, the New Zealand Prayer Book, Forward Movement Daily Readings, or other resources. We pray through the St. James’ prayer list, found through a link in the weekly email newsletter and at [www.stjamesaustin.org](http://www.stjamesaustin.org) under the Serve tab, Pastoral Care Ministries.

**An order for Compline**

**Monday, December 30, 2024 (Monday after the First Sunday after Christmas)**

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. *Amen*

Let us confess our sins to God.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:

We have sinned against you,

through our own fault,

in thought, and word, and deed,

and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,

forgive us all our offenses;

and grant that we may serve you

in newness of life,

to the glory of your Name. Amen

May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

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

*People:* 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 forever. Amen.

**Psalm 23**

*Dominus regit me*

1The Lord is my shepherd; \*

I shall not be in want.

2He makes me lie down in green pastures \*

and leads me beside still waters.

3He revives my soul \*

and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.

4Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil; \*

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*

you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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

Lessons

Isa 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 7:53-8:11

Then each of them went home, while 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Then follows*

V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

R. For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Lord, have mercy.

*Christ, have mercy,*

Lord, have mercy.

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.

*Officiant:* Lord, hear our prayer;

*People:* And let our cry come to you.

*Officiant:* Let us pray.

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

*For Peace Among the Nations*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen*

*For Local Government*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold the office in this state of Texas, and in the city of Austin, the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

*In the Evening*

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen*

**Prayers of the People**

Presider: In Christ, God’s Word has become flesh dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. Let us pray to the true light which enlightens the world, that from the fullness of God all creation may receive grace upon grace, saying: What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Litanist: Gracious God, clothe your Church with the garments of salvation and cover her with robes of righteousness, that we may be your witnesses to testify to the light.

What has come into being in Christ was life,

**and the life was the light of all people**.

Inspire the leaders of our nation and all in authority in the ways of grace and truth, that we may no longer be a people enslaved under the law but may know ourselves to be heirs, adopted as God’s children.

What has come into being in Christ was life,

**and the life was the light of all people**.

Be our light in the darkness for all the world, that the fullness of your heart may be made known for the healing of the earth.

What has come into being in Christ was life,

**and the life was the light of all people**.

Live among us, O Word made flesh, and reconcile this community to your light.

What has come into being in Christ was life,

**and the life was the light of all people.**

May your people be a crown of beauty and a royal diadem in your hand, as we pray in faith for *\_\_\_.*

* Those on our prayer list and others we name ­­\_\_.
* Our Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe; our Diocesan bishops Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai; our clergy (Eileen, Robby, Jim and George and our curate Addison) and all those who work at and for St. James’, including lay people, volunteers and vestry members (Simone Talma Flowers, Clint Dawson, John May, Margaret Shaw, Harrison Eppright, Theresa Garcia, Jill LaCour, Chris Prindle, Jeff Cox, Stephanie Dodoo, Jennifer Graf, Rudy Green).
* We pray for our City Council members - Natasha Harper Madison, Vanessa Fuentes, Jose Velasquez, Jose “Chito” Vela, Ryan Alter, Mackenzie Kelly, Leslie Pool, Paige Ellis, Zohaib “Zo” Qadri, Allison Alter and our Mayor Kirk Watson, for our City Manager T.C. Broadnax, the Police Chief, Lisa Davis, the Fire Chief, Joel Baker, the Travis County Judge, Andy Brown and for other city and county officials.
* We pray for the Governor and other members of the Executive branch of state government. We pray for senators and representatives in the state legislature and in congress.
* We pray for our Supreme Court Justices (Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett, Ketanji Brown Jackson and Chief Justice John Roberts) and for all federal, state, and local judges throughout the country.
* We pray for our president Joe and our vice president Kamala, give them strength, wisdom, and courage as they lead our country.
* We pray for Kamala Harris, her family, those who worked for her presidential campaign and ask that you keep them safe and comforted during this time.
* We pray that you would touch the hearts of those who can make decisions and pass laws to protect the people of our state and country against gun violence.
* We pray protection for the children of this country and around the world, especially those in harm’s way.
* We pray for the “hot spots” around the world, esp. in Ukraine and Russia, Israel and the Gaza Strip, the Pacific area around China and Taiwan, Nicaragua, Sudan, and South Sudan, Haiti, Slovakia, and every place where oppression and violence have disrupted or threatened peace.
* We pray for people in communities in our cities, state, and nation where the violent loss of lives has caused grief, pain, frustration, anger and fear.
* We pray for all those suffering from natural disasters in this country and around the world, especially in the southeast U.S. as a result of hurricanes.
* We pray for Scott Madison in his journey to priesthood.
* We pray for the peaceful transfer of power in January.

Hear our gratitude for your glory manifest among us, especially for \_\_\_ .

* Our family and friends, for healing and restoration to health and wholeness
* Welcome Table and all the many ministries of St. James’ Episcopal Church
* Those advocating and working for reasonable gun control laws
* Health care workers in medical practices, clinics, and hospitals
* Our schools: those who teach and those who learn, those who keep everything running and the people safe
* We give thanks for the faculty and staff of Norman Sims Elementary School and especially for Karla in the office, Principal Patrick Salinas and his staff, and for the students and their families.
* The faculty, staff, and students at Huston Tillotson University and for the work of our curate Addison as Chaplain.
* We give thanks for our seminarian from SSW: Peter, Angel and Ari.

Receive those who have died as heirs of eternal life, especially \_\_\_.

What has come into being in Christ was life,

**and the life was the light of all people**.

Presider: Loving and gracious Creator, from the beginning you have brightened our darkness with the light of your life: Let your vindication shine out like the dawn, and your salvation like a burning torch, that your Word made flesh may bring grace upon grace to all the earth, in the power of your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

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

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

**Blessing**

1 Christmas, All Years

May our wondrous God who has adopted us as children and heirs of divine life fill us with God’s light.

May Christ, the Word become flesh, fill us with the life which is the light of all people.

May the Spirit whom God has sent into our hearts fill us with grace upon grace.

And the blessing of our glorious God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with us and dwell in us always. Amen.

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. *Amen*