

The Book of Common Prayer

**and Administration of the Sacraments
and Other Rites
and Ceremonies of the Church**

Together with The Psalter or Psalms of David
According to the use of

The Episcopal Church

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

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lex orandi, lex credendi

Praying shapes believing

– or –

**The way we pray shapes the way
we believe**

Overview of Series

- ▶ **Week 1: Overview**
 - Current book; History, Historical documents, Catechism
- ▶ **Week 2: Sacraments & Sacramental Rites**
 - Services; Pastoral Offices; Supplementary books
- ▶ **Week 3: Church Year**
 - Daily Office, Calendar, Psalter, Lectionaries

Week 3: Church Year

- Daily Office
- Calendar
- Psalter
- Lectionaries
- Apocrypha
- Rubrics, Collects
- Supplemental Books

Daily Office

- ▶ Jewish tradition of morning, evening, noonday prayer
 - Christians later had morning and evening services
 - Later became duty of monks and clergy
- ▶ Clerical or lay ministers may lead Daily Office
 - Licensed Worship Leaders in this diocese (lay readers)
- ▶ Canticles (p. 85)
 - Psalms, hymns, prayers often set to music
 - Magnificat, Song of Moses, etc.

Daily Office

- ▶ At Reformation, became Protestant answer to daily Mass
 - Could be read individually or in community
- ▶ 1979 BCP provides Rite I and Rite II options
- ▶ MP or EP may substitute for pre-offertory at Eucharist

Structure of Morning Prayer

- ▶ Sentence of Scripture (Rite I: 37; Rite II: 75)
- ▶ Confession – one of few times specified to kneel
- ▶ Absolution – by priest or other (I/we)
- ▶ Invitatory and Psalter – contains Gloria Patri
- ▶ Antiphons for specific dates/seasons
- ▶ *Venite* or *Jubilate* “Come” – “Be joyful”
- ▶ Christ Our Passover
- ▶ Psalms Appointed & Gloria Patri
- ▶ Suffrages
- ▶ Lessons Appointed
- ▶ Canticles
- ▶ Apostles’ Creed
- ▶ Prayers & Lord’s Prayer
- ▶ Collects: Of the Day, others
- ▶ Intercessions & Thanksgivings
- ▶ General Thanksgiving &/or Prayer of St. Chrysostom
- ▶ Dismissal

Structure of Evening Prayer

Aka *Evensong* if sung

- ▶ (Service of Light, p. 109) or Opening(p. 115)
- ▶ Confession & Absolution
- ▶ Invitatory & Psalter
- ▶ *Phos Hilaron* (O Gracious Light)
- ▶ Psalm/s & Gloria Patri
- ▶ Scripture
- ▶ Canticles
- ▶ Prayers
- ▶ Collect/s
- ▶ Prayer for Mission
- ▶ General Thanksgiving &/or Prayer of St. Chrysostom
- ▶ Closing, Scripture sentence

“Little Offices”

(linked to 6th C. Benedictine Rules)

Noonday Prayer

“Grace Before Meal”

(p.103)

- ▶ Greeting: Ps. 70:1
- ▶ 1 or more Psalms
- ▶ Scripture (provided)
- ▶ Prayers
- ▶ Collect
- ▶ Closing

Compline

“Bedtime Prayers”

(p.127)

- ▶ Greeting: Ps. 124:8
- ▶ Confession,
Absolution
- ▶ 1 or more Psalms
- ▶ Scripture
- ▶ Prayers
- ▶ Collect
- ▶ Closing
- ▶ Blessing

Calendar (Pgs. 15–33)

- ▶ Valid at the time of approval, 1979
 - More versions of Lesser Feast and Fasts have updated calendar of additional saints' days
- ▶ Explanation of finding the date for Easter
 - All Sundays depend on date of Easter (p. 15)
 - Advent Sundays only: four Sundays before 12/25

Lectionaries

- ▶ Carries forward Jewish tradition of reading Torah into Christian tradition
 - Early Christians were Jews
- ▶ Soon added readings from Christian writings
 - Today: 3 readings: OT, Psalm, NT/Epistle
 - May omit 1 or more except at principle Sunday service
 - Always the Gospel “Good News”
- ▶ Start on Advent 1 – new Church year
- ▶ Old Sunday Episcopal Lectionary found in BCP
 - Replaced by Revised Common Lectionary adopted by 2003 General Convention

Sunday Eucharistic Lectionary

- ▶ Divided into Years A, B, C (listed p. 888)
- ▶ A = Matthew
- ▶ B = Mark (& John)
- ▶ C = Luke
- ▶ John = Holy Week, Easter Season
 - Day of Pentecost, Saints days,
 - Some Ordinary Time in Year B

Daily Office Lectionary

- ▶ Two year cycle (starts on p. 934)
 - Year 1: 1st Sunday of Advent preceding odd-numbered years
 - Year 2: 1st Sunday of Advent preceding even-numbered years
- ▶ Designed for those who say Office each day
- ▶ NT can be read twice, OT read once
- ▶ GC 1943 placed associated readings together
- ▶ Can read any translation authorized by Canons
 - Listed by RSV

Apocrypha

- ▶ Gr. “hidden things” – extra-testamental
- ▶ Varies by Christian denomination
 - Some delete entirely
- ▶ Generally written between OT & NT
- ▶ Used for weddings, other services
- ▶ Some now incorporated into Revised Common Lectionary readings for Sundays

Anglican Apocrypha

- ▶ 3 & 4 Esdras
- ▶ Tobit
- ▶ Judith
- ▶ Esther (complete)
- ▶ Wisdom of Solomon
- ▶ Ecclesiasticus (Sirach)
- ▶ Baruch, with the Letter of Jeremiah
- ▶ The Song of the Three Young Men with the Prayer of Azariah
- ▶ The Story of Susanna
- ▶ Bel and the Dragon
- ▶ The Prayer of Manasseh
- ▶ I and 2 Maccabees

A Note on Rubrics

- ▶ Latin, *red;* previously printed in red
 - Now simply information set out in italics
- ▶ Give directions, explanations, possibilities
 - Note use of “may” – not always binding
 - Generally may change if not prohibited

Collects

- ▶ Ancient liturgical action
- ▶ Dialog between celebrant & people
- ▶ Concludes time of prayer by "collecting" peoples' prayers in a unified petition of a general form
- ▶ Specific for day, service

Supplemental Books

▶ Prayer Books:

- Book of Occasional Services
- Enriching Our Worship 1
 - Morning & Evening Prayer; Great Litany, Eucharist
- Enriching Our Worship 2
 - Ministry with Sick or Dying; Burial of a Child
- Lesser Feasts and Fasts
- Psalter for the Christian People
- A New Zealand Prayer Book

▶ Hymnals:

- Wonder Love and Praise
- Lift Every Voice and Sing
- Voices Found

References

- ▶ Hatchett, Marion J: Commentary on the American Prayer Book. New York; HarperCollins, 1995.
- ▶ Mitchell, Leonel L.: Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer. New York; Morehouse, 1991.
- ▶ Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Minnesota (or other specific diocese)