

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

Leader: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People: The maker of heaven and earth.

Collect 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 forever. *Amen.*

Let us confess our sins to God and our Neighbor:

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

People: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Psalm 25:1-9

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

² Let none who look to you be put to
shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their
schemes.

³ Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

⁴ Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵ Remember, O LORD, your compassion and
love, * for they are from everlasting.

⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth and
my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁷ Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸ He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹ All the paths of the LORD are love and
faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his
testimonies.

Leader: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation-Reflection: Telling the Truth

Leader: Listen with me. Can you hear the plaintive cry of the psalmist with me? Can you hear the pain, fear, and desperation as they pray to the faithful God who is their only hope? Can you imagine their deep desire for truth as a way of life not only for themselves, but for all of society? And hearing it in the psalm, can we together tune our hearts to hear it in all of God's beloved who still long for peace, safety, and dignity?

In a time when facts from experts are discounted for the opinions of influencers, and when the lies that have been perpetuated of who we are and have been as a nation are debated, the need to be led into ways of truth and compassion has become an ethical and spiritual imperative. Guided by God's gracious nature, we can listen with humility to the stories that need to be told. We can see and tell the truth that is all around us, if we are willing. And then, we can receive the grace to do something about it. — Mother Andrea Arsene

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

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

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

Ŕ. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer;

People: And let our cry come to you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: 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 thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

Prayers of Petition for Our Families Friends and Neighbors

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

**People: Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
mirror of God's eternal face,
transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our human race.¹**

The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

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.

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.

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

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

About the Service:

The Rev. Andrea Arsene went to St. John's Episcopal Church – Lafayette, IN from the Diocese of Los Angeles in Aug. 2020 after being ordained to the diaconate in June. She was ordained to the priesthood at St. John's in January 2021. Prior to that she was a seminarian serving in ministry as a sacristan, school government leader, and academic committee member. Prior to seminary she served on the vestry, alter guild, and the outreach ministry of Laundry Love. She is passionate about Scripture, intercultural music styles, and how the love of God is lived out in the hearts and minds of the followers of Christ as they make a difference in the world. ([Clergy & Staff — St. John's Episcopal Church | Lafayette \(stjohns-laf.org\)](#))

Service contains excerpts from Preparing to Become the Beloved Community, Advent Year C
Copyright © 2021 by The Episcopal Church

Prepared by the Reconciliation, Justice, and Creation Care Team, in consultation with the Rev.
Andrea Arsene, the Rev. Erin Kirby, Lelanda Lee, and the Rev. Lydia Simmons.

www.episcopalchurch.org/reconciliation.