

¶ Evening Prayer

Passiontide

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Joseph of Nazareth

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

Allo Lord, make haste to help us.

Let your ways be known upon earth

All your saving power among the nations.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

As we behold your Son, enthroned on the cross,

stir up in us the fire of your love,

that we may be cleansed from all our sins,

and walk with you in newness of life

singing the praise of him who died

for us and our salvation.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

[Saviour of the World \(page 644\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

The royal banners forward go,

the cross shines forth in mystic glow;

where he in flesh, our flesh who made,

our sentence bore, our ransom paid.

There whilst he hung, his sacred side
by soldier's spear was opened wide,
to cleanse us in the precious flood
of water mingled with his blood.

Fulfilled is now what David told
in true prophetic song of old,
how God the nations' King should be;
for God is reigning from the tree.

O tree of glory, tree most fair,
ordained those holy limbs to bear,
how bright in purple robe it stood,
the purple of a Saviour's blood!

Upon its arms, like balance true,
he weighed the price for sinners due,
the price which none but he could pay,
and spoiled the spoiler of his prey.

To thee, eternal Three in One,
let homage meet by all be done:
as by the cross thou dost restore,
so rule and guide us evermore.

Venantius Fortunatus, tr: J M Neale (alt.)
(Tune: LM)

This opening prayer may be said

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

AllAmen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 1

Refrain: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

1 Blessed are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked, □
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the assembly of the scornful.

2 Their delight is in the law of the Lord □
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 Like a tree planted by streams of water
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, □
whatever they do, it shall prosper. R

4 As for the wicked, it is not so with them; □
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, □
nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, □
but the way of the wicked shall perish.

Refrain: The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

Christ our wisdom,
give us delight in your law,
that we may bear fruits of patience and peace
in the kingdom of the righteous;
for your mercy's sake.

Psalm 112

Refrain: The righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

1 [Alleluia.]

Blessed are those who fear the Lord □
and have great delight in his commandments.

2 Their descendants will be mighty in the land, □
a generation of the faithful that will be blest.

3 Wealth and riches will be in their house, □
and their righteousness endures for ever.

4 Light shines in the darkness for the upright; □
gracious and full of compassion are the righteous. R

5 It goes well with those who are generous in lending □
and order their affairs with justice,

6 For they will never be shaken; □
the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

7 They will not be afraid of any evil tidings; □
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. R

8 Their heart is sustained and will not fear, □
until they see the downfall of their foes.

9 They have given freely to the poor;
their righteousness stands fast for ever; □
their head will be exalted with honour.

10 The wicked shall see it and be angry;
they shall gnash their teeth in despair; □
the desire of the wicked shall perish.

Refrain: The righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

Generous God,
save us from the meanness
that calculates its interest and hoards its earthly gain;

as we have freely received,
so may we freely give;
in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

AllGlory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.

Genesis 50.22-end

So Joseph remained in Egypt, he and his father’s household; and Joseph lived for one hundred and ten years. Joseph saw Ephraim’s children of the third generation; the children of Machir son of Manasseh were also born on Joseph’s knees.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am about to die; but God will surely come to you, and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’ So Joseph made the Israelites swear, saying, ‘When God comes to you, you shall carry up my bones from here.’ And Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Canticle

The following, or another suitable canticle, may be said or sung

Refrain:

AllLove bears all things
and will never come to an end.

1Love is patient and kind, □
love is not jealous or boastful,
it is not arrogant or rude.

2Love does not insist on its own way, □
it is not angry or resentful.

3It does not rejoice in wrongdoing □
but rejoices in the truth.

4Love bears all things and believes all things; □

love hopes all things and endures all things.

5Love will never come to an end, □

but prophecy will vanish,

tongues cease and knowledge pass away.

6Now we know only in part □

and we prophesy only in part,

7But when the perfect comes, □

the partial shall pass away.

8When I was a child, I spoke like a child, □

I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child.

9But when I became mature, □

I put an end to childish ways.

10For now we see only puzzling reflections in a mirror, □

but then we will see face to face.

11Now I know only in part; □

then I shall know fully,

even as I have been fully known.

12There are three things that last for ever,

faith, hope and love, □

but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13.4-13

AllGlory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

AllLove bears all things

and will never come to an end.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

Matthew 2.13-end

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, ‘Out of Egypt I have called my son.’

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

‘A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
Allby your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
Christ committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips.
AllWe adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
AllBy your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
By his wounds you have been healed.
AllWe adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

cf 1 Peter 2

Gospel Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,
or [A Song of Praise \(page 627\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All Joseph of Nazareth went up to Bethlehem
to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child.

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; □
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; □
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, □
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm □
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones □
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things □
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, □
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, □
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Refrain:

All Joseph of Nazareth went up to Bethlehem
to be enrolled with Mary his betrothed, who was with child.

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

- ¶ for peace
- ¶ for individuals and their needs

Prayers may include the following concerns from the [cycle on pages 364-365](#)

- ¶ The persecuted Church
- ¶ The oppressed peoples of the world
- ¶ All who are lonely
- ¶ All who are near to death
- ¶ All who are facing loss

A form of prayer found [on page 381](#) may be used.

The Litany [on pages 400-403](#) may be said instead of the Prayers.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

God our Father,
who from the family of your servant David
raised up Joseph the carpenter
to be the guardian of your incarnate Son
and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
give us grace to follow him
in faithful obedience to your commands;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Standing at the foot of the cross,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

AllOur 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

(or)

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

AllOur 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,
the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Conclusion

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,

set us free to serve him with joy.

AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.

AllThanks be to God.

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