

☩ Morning Prayer on Wednesday

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, Martyr, 258 [Lesser Festival]

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

[The Acclamation of Christ at the Dawning of the Day \(page 108\)](#) may replace the Preparation as the start of Morning Prayer on any occasion.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

One of these prayers of thanksgiving (page 109),

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

You founded the earth in the beginning

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

and in these last days you have spoken to us

in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us

let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,

your Spirit ever renew our lives

and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

(or)

Blessed are you, creator of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth

bringing light and life to all creation,

may we rejoice in this day you have made;

as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,

open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

after Lancelot Andrewes (1626)

or a suitable hymn,

or A Song of God's Glorious Name

1 O Lord our governor, □

how glorious is your name in all the world!

2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised □

out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes, □

that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, □

the moon and the stars that you have ordained,

5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them; □

mere human beings, that you should seek them out?

6 You have made them little lower than the angels □

and crown them with glory and honour.

7 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands □

and put all things under their feet,

8 All sheep and oxen, □

even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea □

and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

10 O Lord our governor, □

how glorious is your name in all the world!

Psalm 8

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.

This opening prayer may be said

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.
All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 34

Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.

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

2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; [□]
let the humble hear and be glad.

3 O magnify the Lord with me; [□]
let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the Lord and he answered me [□]
and delivered me from all my fears.

5 Look upon him and be radiant [□]
and your faces shall not be ashamed. R

6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me [□]

and saved me from all my troubles.

7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him[□]
and delivers them.

8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;[□]
blessed is the one who trusts in him.

9 Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones,[□]
for those who fear him lack nothing.

10 Lions may lack and suffer hunger,[□]
but those who seek the Lord
lack nothing that is good. R

11 Come, my children, and listen to me;[□]
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

12 Who is there who delights in life[□]
and longs for days to enjoy good things?

13 Keep your tongue from evil[□]
and your lips from lying words.

14 Turn from evil and do good;[□]
seek peace and pursue it. R

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 out of all their troubles.

18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted[□]
and will save those who are crushed in spirit. R

19 Many are the troubles of the righteous;[□]
from them all will the Lord deliver them.

20 He keeps all their bones,[□]
so that not one of them is broken.

21 But evil shall slay the wicked [□]

and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

22 The Lord ransoms the life of his servants [□]

and will condemn none who seek refuge in him.

Refrain: O taste and see that the Lord is gracious.

Send your holy angels

to watch over us, O God,

that on our lips will be found your truth

and in our hearts your love;

so we may ever taste your goodness

in the land of the living;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

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.

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

Wisdom 7.15-8.4

May God grant me to speak with judgement,

and to have thoughts worthy of what I have received;

for he is the guide even of wisdom

and the corrector of the wise.

For both we and our words are in his hand,

as are all understanding and skill in crafts.

For it is he who gave me unerring knowledge of what exists,

to know the structure of the world and the activity of the elements;

the beginning and end and middle of times,

the alternations of the solstices and the changes of the seasons,

the cycles of the year and the constellations of the stars,

the natures of animals and the tempers of wild animals,

the powers of spirits and the thoughts of human beings,

the varieties of plants and the virtues of roots;

I learned both what is secret and what is manifest,

for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me.

There is in her a spirit that is intelligent, holy,

unique, manifold, subtle,

mobile, clear, unpolluted,

distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen,

irresistible, beneficent, humane,

steadfast, sure, free from anxiety,

all-powerful, overseeing all,

and penetrating through all spirits

that are intelligent, pure, and altogether subtle.

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion;

because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things.

For she is a breath of the power of God,

and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;

therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her.

For she is a reflection of eternal light,

a spotless mirror of the working of God,

and an image of his goodness.

Although she is but one, she can do all things,

and while remaining in herself, she renews all things;

in every generation she passes into holy souls

and makes them friends of God, and prophets;

for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom.

She is more beautiful than the sun,

and excels every constellation of the stars.

Compared with the light she is found to be superior,

for it is succeeded by the night,

but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other,

and she orders all things well.

I loved her and sought her from my youth;

I desired to take her for my bride,

and became enamoured of her beauty.

She glorifies her noble birth by living with God,

and the Lord of all loves her.

For she is an initiate in the knowledge of God,

and an associate in his works.

or [1 Chronicles 29.1-9](#)

Canticle

A Song of the Word of the Lord, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 35 \(page 586\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,

to our God, who will richly pardon.

1 Seek the Lord while he may be found, [□]

call upon him while he is near;

2 Let the wicked abandon their ways, [□]

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

3 Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; [□]

to our God, who will richly pardon.

4 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, [□]

neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.

5 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, [□]

so are my ways higher than your ways

and my thoughts than your thoughts.

6 As the rain and the snow come down from above, [□]

and return not again but water the earth,

7 Bringing forth life and giving growth, [□]

seed for sowing and bread to eat,

8 So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; [□]

it will not return to me fruitless,

9 But it will accomplish that which I purpose, [□]

and succeed in the task I gave it.'

Isaiah 55.6-11

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.

All Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Mark 11.27-end

Again they came to Jerusalem. As he was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to him and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things? Who gave you this authority to do them?' Jesus said to them, 'I will ask you one question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin? Answer me.' They argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say, "Why then did you not believe him?" But shall we say, "Of human origin"?'—they were afraid of the crowd, for all regarded John as truly a prophet. So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And Jesus said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.'

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

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

All And afterwards receive me with glory.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

from Psalm 73

Gospel Cantic

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,

or [A Song of Redemption \(page 620\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,[□]
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,[□]
born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old[□]
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors,[□]
and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:[□]
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear,[□]
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,[□]
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation[□]
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God[□]
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,[□]
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

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 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

¶ for the day and its tasks

¶ for the world and its needs

¶ for the Church and her life

Prayers may include the following concerns from the [cycle on pages 362–363](#)

¶ The social services

¶ All who work in the criminal justice system

¶ Victims and perpetrators of crime

¶ The work of aid agencies throughout the world

¶ Those living in poverty or under oppression

One of the forms of prayer found [on pages 362–371](#) may be used.

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

Holy God, who brought Cyprian to faith in Christ,

made him a bishop in the Church

and crowned his witness with a martyr's death:

grant that, after his example,

we may love the Church and her teachings,

find your forgiveness within her fellowship

and so come to share the heavenly banquet

you have prepared for us;

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

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)

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

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.
AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.
AllThanks be to God.

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