

## ¶ Evening Prayer on Wednesday

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

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

### Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

AllO Lord, make haste to help us.

[The Blessing of Light \(page 110\)](#) may replace the Preparation at Evening Prayer on any occasion.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

A prayer of thanksgiving (page 110),

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As darkness falls you renew your promise

to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word,

dispel the darkness of our hearts

that we may walk as children of light

and sing your praise throughout the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

AllBlessed be God for ever.

or a suitable hymn,

or A Song of God's Descending

1I love you, O Lord my strength. □

The Lord is my crag, my fortress and my deliverer.

2In my distress I called upon the Lord □

and cried out to my God for help.

3He heard my voice in his temple

and my cry came to his ears.

4He parted the heavens and came down

and thick darkness was under his feet.

5He rode upon the cherubim and flew;

he came flying on the wings of the wind.

6He made darkness his covering round about him,

dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.

7From the brightness of his presence, through the clouds

burst hailstones and coals of fire.

8The Lord also thundered out of heaven;

the Most High uttered his voice

with hailstones and coals of fire.

9For you will save a lowly people

and bring down the high looks of the proud.

10You also shall light my candle;

the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

11As for God, his way is perfect;

the word of the Lord is tried in the fire;

he is a shield to all who trust in him.

Psalm 18.1, 6, 7, 10-14, 28, 29, 31

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

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 119.33-56

Refrain: My delight shall be in your commandments.

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes <sup>□</sup>  
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding and I shall keep your law; <sup>□</sup>  
I shall keep it with my whole heart.

35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, <sup>□</sup>  
for therein is my delight.

36 Incline my heart to your testimonies <sup>□</sup>  
and not to unjust gain. R

37 Turn away my eyes lest they gaze on vanities; <sup>□</sup>  
O give me life in your ways.

38 Confirm to your servant your promise, <sup>□</sup>  
which stands for all who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, <sup>□</sup>  
because your judgements are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; <sup>□</sup>  
in your righteousness give me life. R

41 Let your faithful love come unto me, O Lord,  
even your salvation, according to your promise.

42 Then shall I answer those who taunt me,  
for my trust is in your word.

43 O take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth,  
for my hope is in your judgements.

44 So shall I always keep your law;  
I shall keep it for ever and ever. R

45 I will walk at liberty,  
because I study your commandments.

46 I will tell of your testimonies, even before kings,  
and will not be ashamed.

47 My delight shall be in your commandments,  
which I have greatly loved.

48 My hands will I lift up to your commandments,  
which I love,  
and I will meditate on your statutes. R

49 Remember your word to your servant,  
on which you have built my hope.

50 This is my comfort in my trouble,  
that your promise gives me life.

51 The proud have derided me cruelly,  
but I have not turned aside from your law.

52 I have remembered your everlasting judgements, O Lord,  
and have been comforted. R

53 I am seized with indignation at the wicked,  
for they have forsaken your law.

54 Your statutes have been like songs to me  
in the house of my pilgrimage.

55 I have thought on your name in the night, O Lord,

and so have I kept your law.

56 These blessings have been mine, □

for I have kept your commandments.

Refrain: My delight shall be in your commandments.

God of loving mercy,  
in this place of our pilgrimage  
turn your laws into songs,  
that we may find your promises  
fulfilled in 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.

## **1 Kings 10.1-25**

When the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon, (fame due to the name of the Lord), she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. When the queen of Sheba had observed all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his valets, and his burnt-offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

So she said to the king, 'The report was true that I heard in my own land of your accomplishments and of your wisdom, but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. Not even half had been told me; your wisdom and prosperity far surpass the report that I had heard. Happy are your wives! Happy are these your servants, who continually attend you and hear your wisdom! Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel! Because the Lord loved Israel for ever, he has made you king to execute justice and righteousness.' Then she gave the king one hundred and twenty talents of gold, a great quantity of spices, and precious stones; never again did spices come in such quantity as that which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

Moreover, the fleet of Hiram, which carried gold from Ophir, brought from Ophir a great quantity of almug wood and precious stones. From the almug wood the king made supports for the house of the Lord, and for the king's house, lyres also and harps for the singers; no such almug wood has come or been seen to this day.

Meanwhile, King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba every desire that she expressed, as well as what he gave her out of Solomon's royal bounty. Then she

returned to her own land, with her servants.

The weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold, besides that which came from the traders and from the business of the merchants, and from all the kings of Arabia and the governors of the land. King Solomon made two hundred large shields of beaten gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each large shield. He made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three minas of gold went into each shield; and the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. The king also made a great ivory throne, and overlaid it with the finest gold. The throne had six steps. The top of the throne was rounded in the back, and on each side of the seat were arm rests and two lions standing beside the arm rests, while twelve lions were standing, one on each end of a step, on the six steps. Nothing like it was ever made in any kingdom. All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the House of the Forest of Lebanon were of pure gold; none were of silver—it was not considered as anything in the days of Solomon. For the king had a fleet of ships of Tarshish at sea with the fleet of Hiram. Once every three years the fleet of ships of Tarshish used to come bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks.

Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. The whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind. Every one of them brought a present, objects of silver and gold, garments, weaponry, spices, horses, and mules, so much year by year.

## Canticle

A Song of the Blessed, or another suitable canticle,  
for example, [number 69 \(page 627\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Rejoice and be glad  
for you are the light of the world,  
and great is your reward in heaven.

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, □  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Blessed are those who mourn, □  
for they shall be comforted.

3 Blessed are the meek, □  
for they shall inherit the earth.

4 Blessed are those who hunger  
and thirst after righteousness, □  
for they shall be satisfied.

5 Blessed are the merciful, □  
for they shall obtain mercy.

6Blessed are the pure in heart, □

for they shall see God.

7Blessed are the peacemakers, □

for they shall be called children of God.

8Blessed are those who suffer persecution

for righteousness' sake, □

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3-10

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.

AllRejoice and be glad

for you are the light of the world,

and great is your reward in heaven.

## Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

## Acts 17.1-15

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, 'This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you.' Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the market-places they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, 'These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus.' The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue. These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing. But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been

proclaimed by Paul in Beroea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds. Then the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind. Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

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 Canticle

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,

or the Nunc dimittis ([The Song of Simeon](#)) ([page 613](#)) may be said

Refrain:

All Those who gave up their lives for Christ and followed in the Way  
rejoice with God now and for ever.

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,

5Casting down the mighty from their thrones<sup>□</sup>

and lifting up the lowly.

6He has filled the hungry with good things<sup>□</sup>

and sent the rich away empty.

7He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,<sup>□</sup>

to remember his promise of mercy,

8The promise made to our ancestors,<sup>□</sup>

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 Those who gave up their lives for Christ and followed in the Way

rejoice with God now and for ever.

## 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 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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All 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.

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

All 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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## The Conclusion

All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore.  
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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