

¶ Evening Prayer

from All Saints' Day until

the day before the First Sunday of Advent

Thursday, 25 November 2021

Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th century [Commemoration]

Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748 [Commemoration]

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your faithful servants bless you.

All They make known the glory of your kingdom.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

our light and our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

Now, as darkness is falling,

wash away our transgressions,

cleanse us by your refining fire

and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.

By the light of Christ,

dispel the darkness of our hearts

and make us ready to enter your kingdom,

where songs of praise for ever sound.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

[A Song of Tobit \(page 596\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

Give me the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

Once they were mourning here below,
and wet their couch with tears;
they wrestled hard, as we do now,
with sins and doubts and fears.

I ask them whence their victory came:
they, with united breath,
ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast,
and, following their incarnate God,
possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern given;
while the long cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heaven.

Isaac Watts

(Tune: CM)

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 131

Refrain: O Israel, trust in the Lord.

1 O Lord, my heart is not proud; [□]
my eyes are not raised in haughty looks.

2 I do not occupy myself with great matters, [□]
with things that are too high for me.

3 But I have quieted and stilled my soul,
like a weaned child on its mother's breast; [□]
so my soul is quieted within me.

4 O Israel, trust in the Lord, [□]
from this time forth for evermore.

Refrain: O Israel, trust in the Lord.

Eternal God,
calm and quieten our souls;
keep us humble and full of wonder
and trusting as we live in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 132

Refrain: Arise, O Lord, into your resting place.

1 Lord, remember for David [□]
all the hardships he endured;

2 How he swore an oath to the Lord [□]
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

3 'I will not come within the shelter of my house, [□]

nor climb up into my bed;

4 'I will not allow my eyes to sleep,[□]
nor let my eyelids slumber,

5 'Until I find a place for the Lord,[□]
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob.' R

6 Now, we heard of the ark in Ephrathah[□]
and found it in the fields of Ja-ar.

7 Let us enter his dwelling place[□]
and fall low before his footstool.

8 Arise, O Lord, into your resting place,[□]
you and the ark of your strength.

9 Let your priests be clothed with righteousness[□]
and your faithful ones sing with joy.

10 For your servant David's sake,[□]
turn not away the face of your anointed. R

11 The Lord has sworn an oath to David,[□]
a promise from which he will not shrink:

12 'Of the fruit of your body[□]
shall I set upon your throne.

13 'If your children keep my covenant[□]
and my testimonies that I shall teach them,[□]
their children also shall sit upon your throne for evermore.'

14 For the Lord has chosen Zion for himself;[□]
he has desired her for his habitation: R

15 'This shall be my resting place for ever;[□]
here will I dwell, for I have longed for her.

16 'I will abundantly bless her provision;[□]
her poor will I satisfy with bread.

17 'I will clothe her priests with salvation,[□]
and her faithful ones shall rejoice and sing.

18 'There will I make a horn to spring up for David;[□]
I will keep a lantern burning for my anointed.

19 'As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame;[□]
but on him shall his crown be bright.'

Refrain: Arise, O Lord, into your resting place.

Jesus, Son of David,
make us a priestly people;
clothe us in righteousness,
make us fruitful,
and give us hearts to shout for joy in your salvation;
we pray in the power of the Spirit.

Psalm 133

Refrain: Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

1 Behold how good and pleasant it is[□]
to dwell together in unity.

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head,[□]
running down upon the beard,

3 Even on Aaron's beard,[□]
running down upon the collar of his clothing.

4 It is like the dew of Hermon[□]
running down upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing:[□]
even life for evermore.

Refrain: Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Grant to your people, good Lord,
the spirit of unity,

that they may dwell together in your love,
and so bear to the world
the ointment of your healing and the
dew of your blessing;
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.

Isaiah 41.8-20

But you, Israel, my servant,
 Jacob, whom I have chosen,
 the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
 and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, 'You are my servant,
 I have chosen you and not cast you off';
do not fear, for I am with you,
 do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
 I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

Yes, all who are incensed against you
 shall be ashamed and disgraced;
those who strive against you
 shall be as nothing and shall perish.
You shall seek those who contend with you,
 but you shall not find them;
those who war against you
 shall be as nothing at all.
For I, the Lord your God,
 hold your right hand;

it is I who say to you, 'Do not fear,

I will help you.'

Do not fear, you worm Jacob,

you insect Israel!

I will help you, says the Lord;

your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

Now, I will make of you a threshing-sledge,

sharp, new, and having teeth;

you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,

and you shall make the hills like chaff.

You shall winnow them and the wind shall carry them away,

and the tempest shall scatter them.

Then you shall rejoice in the Lord;

in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

When the poor and needy seek water,

and there is none,

and their tongue is parched with thirst,

I the Lord will answer them,

I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

I will open rivers on the bare heights,

and fountains in the midst of the valleys;

I will make the wilderness a pool of water,

and the dry land springs of water.

I will put in the wilderness the cedar,

the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;

I will set in the desert the cypress,

the plane and the pine together,

so that all may see and know,

all may consider and understand,

that the hand of the Lord has done this,

the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Canticle

A Song of God's Assembled, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 70 \(page 628\)](#) or [number 73 \(page 631\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

1 We have come before God's holy mountain,[□]
to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

2 We have come before countless angels making festival,[□]
before the assembly of the firstborn citizens of heaven.

3 We have come before God, who is judge of all,[□]
before the spirits of the just made perfect.

4 We have come before Jesus,[□]
the mediator of the new covenant.

5 We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken:[□]
so let us give thanks and offer to God acceptable worship,

6 Full of reverence and awe;[□]
for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12.22-24a, 28, 29

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 We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Revelation 16.12-end

The sixth angel poured his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up in order to prepare the way for the kings from the east. And I saw three foul spirits like frogs coming from the mouth of the dragon, from the mouth of the beast, and from the mouth of the false prophet. These are demonic spirits,

performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. ('See, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake and is clothed, not going about naked and exposed to shame.') And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Harmagedon.

The seventh angel poured his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, 'It is done!' And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a violent earthquake, such as had not occurred since people were upon the earth, so violent was that earthquake. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. God remembered great Babylon and gave her the wine-cup of the fury of his wrath. And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found; and huge hailstones, each weighing about a hundred pounds, dropped from heaven on people, until they cursed God for the plague of the hail, so fearful was that plague.

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 Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,

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

Refrain:

All The righteous will shine like the sun

in the kingdom of their Father.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Luke 1.46-55

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.

Refrain:

AllThe righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.

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 saints on earth, that they may live as citizens of heaven
- ¶ All people, that they may hear and believe the word of God
- ¶ All who fear the winter months
- ¶ All sovereigns and political leaders, that they may imitate the righteous rule of Christ
- ¶ All who grieve or wait with the dying

A form of prayer found [on page 384](#) 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

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
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

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
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)

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,

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

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,

bring us to reign with him in glory.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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