

## ☩ Morning Prayer

from All Saints' Day until

the day before the First Sunday of Advent

Friday, 26 November 2021

### Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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,

ruler and judge of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of this age that is passing away

may the light of your presence which the saints enjoy

surround our steps as we journey on.

May we reflect your glory this day

and so be made ready to see your face

in the heavenly city where night shall be no more.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All blessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of Trust in God

1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, <sup>□</sup>

so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; <sup>□</sup>

when shall I come before the presence of God?

3My tears have been my bread day and night,<sup>□</sup>  
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

4Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul:<sup>□</sup>  
how I went with the multitude  
and led the procession to the house of God,

5With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,<sup>□</sup>  
among those who kept holy day.

6Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,<sup>□</sup>  
and why are you so disquieted within me?

7O put your trust in God;<sup>□</sup>  
for I will yet give him thanks,  
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 42.1-7

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.

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.

AllAmen.

## **The Word of God**

### **Psalmody**

The appointed psalmody is said.

## Psalm 139

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; <sup>□</sup>  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place <sup>□</sup>  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue, <sup>□</sup>  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You encompass me behind and before <sup>□</sup>  
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, <sup>□</sup>  
so high that I cannot attain it. R

6 Where can I go then from your spirit? <sup>□</sup>  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; <sup>□</sup>  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning <sup>□</sup>  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand shall lead me, <sup>□</sup>  
your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me <sup>□</sup>  
and the light around me turn to night,'

11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;  
the night is as clear as the day; <sup>□</sup>  
darkness and light to you are both alike. R

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; <sup>□</sup>  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; <sup>□</sup>  
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

14 My frame was not hidden from you, <sup>□</sup>  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; <sup>□</sup>  
already in your book were all my members written,

16 As day by day they were fashioned <sup>□</sup>  
when as yet there was none of them.

17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God! <sup>□</sup>  
How great is the sum of them!

18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand, <sup>□</sup>  
and at the end, I am still in your presence. R

19 O that you would slay the wicked, O God, <sup>□</sup>  
that the bloodthirsty might depart from me!

20 They speak against you with wicked intent; <sup>□</sup>  
your enemies take up your name for evil.

21 Do I not oppose those, O Lord, who oppose you? <sup>□</sup>  
Do I not abhor those who rise up against you?

22 I hate them with a perfect hatred; <sup>□</sup>  
they have become my own enemies also.

23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart; <sup>□</sup>  
try me and examine my thoughts.

24 See if there is any way of wickedness in me <sup>□</sup>  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

Creator God,  
may every breath we take be for your glory,  
may every footstep show you as our way,  
that, trusting in your presence in this world,  
we may, beyond this life, still be with you

where you are alive and reign  
for ever and ever.

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 22.1-14**

The oracle concerning the valley of vision.

What do you mean that you have gone up,  
all of you, to the housetops,  
you that are full of shoutings,  
tumultuous city, exultant town?

Your slain are not slain by the sword,  
nor are they dead in battle.

Your rulers have all fled together;  
they were captured without the use of a bow.

All of you who were found were captured,  
though they had fled far away.

Therefore I said:

Look away from me,  
let me weep bitter tears;  
do not try to comfort me  
for the destruction of my beloved people.

For the Lord God of hosts has a day  
of tumult and trampling and confusion  
in the valley of vision,  
a battering down of walls  
and a cry for help to the mountains.

Elam bore the quiver  
with chariots and cavalry,

and Kir uncovered the shield.

Your choicest valleys were full of chariots,

and the cavalry took their stand at the gates.

He has taken away the covering of Judah.

On that day you looked to the weapons of the House of the Forest, and you saw that there were many breaches in the city of David, and you collected the waters of the lower pool. You counted the houses of Jerusalem, and you broke down the houses to fortify the wall. You made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to him who did it, or have regard for him who planned it long ago.

On that day the Lord God of hosts

called to weeping and mourning,

to baldness and putting on sackcloth;

but instead there was joy and festivity,

killing oxen and slaughtering sheep,

eating meat and drinking wine.

'Let us eat and drink,

for tomorrow we die.'

The Lord of hosts has revealed himself in my ears:

Surely this iniquity will not be forgiven you until you die,

says the Lord God of hosts.

## Canticle

A Song of the New Creation, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 28 \(page 579\)](#), [number 46 \(page 598\)](#) or [number 47 \(page 599\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All will make a way in the wilderness,

and rivers in the desert.

1'I am the Lord, your Holy One, <sup>□</sup>

the Creator of Israel, your King.'

2Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, <sup>□</sup>

a path in the mighty waters,

3'Remember not the former things, <sup>□</sup>

nor consider the things of old.

4'Behold, I am doing a new thing; <sup>□</sup>  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

5'I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert, <sup>□</sup>  
to give drink to my chosen people,

6'The people whom I formed for myself, <sup>□</sup>  
that they might declare my praise.'

Isaiah 43.15, 16, 18, 19, 20c, 21

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 I will make a way in the wilderness,  
and rivers in the desert.

## Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

## Matthew 11.2-19

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

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

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,

All my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

The heavens bear witness to your wonders;

All will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

The assembly of your saints proclaims your truth;

All my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;

steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

All will sing for ever of your love, O Lord,

my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

from Psalm 89

## Gospel Canticle

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

or the [Te Deum Laudamus \(A Song of the Church\) \(page 636\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All You will guide us with your counsel, O God,

and afterwards receive us with glory.

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,



4To show mercy to our ancestors,<sup>□</sup>  
and to remember his holy covenant.

5This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:<sup>□</sup>  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6Free to worship him without fear,<sup>□</sup>  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

7And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,<sup>□</sup>  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8To give his people knowledge of salvation<sup>□</sup>  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9In the tender compassion of our God<sup>□</sup>  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

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

Luke 1.68-79

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:

AllYou will guide us with your counsel, O God,  
and afterwards receive us with glory.

## 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 364–365](#)

- ¶ The saints on earth, that they may live as citizens of heaven

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¶

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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