

☩ Morning Prayer

Advent

Wednesday, 1 December 2021

Charles de Foucauld, Hermit in the Sahara, 1916 [Commemoration]

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

All that we may behold your power and glory.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In your tender compassion

the dawn from on high is breaking upon us

to dispel the lingering shadows of night.

As we look for your coming among us this day,

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.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of the King's Glory

1 The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, [□]

the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

2 For he has founded it upon the seas [□]

and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

3'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

4'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;

5'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

6Such is the company of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

7Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

8'Who is the King of glory?'
The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

9Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

10'Who is this King of glory?'
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.'

Psalm 24

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 5

Refrain: You, O Lord, will bless the righteous.

1 Give ear to my words, O Lord; [□]
consider my lamentation.

2 Hearken to the voice of my crying, my King and my God, [□]
for to you I make my prayer.

3 In the morning, Lord, you will hear my voice; [□]
early in the morning I make my appeal to you, and look up.

4 For you are the God who takes no pleasure in wickedness; [□]
no evil can dwell with you. R

5 The boastful cannot stand in your sight; [□]
you hate all those that work wickedness.

6 You destroy those who speak lies; [□]
the bloodthirsty and deceitful the Lord will abhor.

7 But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy,
I will come into your house; [□]
I will bow down towards your holy temple in awe of you. R

8 Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness,
because of my enemies; [□]
make your way straight before my face.

9 For there is no truth in their mouth,
in their heart is destruction,[□]
their throat is an open sepulchre,
and they flatter with their tongue.

10 Punish them, O God;[□]
let them fall through their own devices.

11 Because of their many transgressions cast them out,[□]
for they have rebelled against you. R

12 But let all who take refuge in you be glad;[□]
let them sing out their joy for ever.

13 You will shelter them,[□]
so that those who love your name may exult in you.

14 For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous;[□]
and with your favour you will defend them as with a shield.

Refrain: You, O Lord, will bless the righteous.

Lord, protect us from the deceit
of flattering tongues and lying lips;
give us words of life which speak your truth
and bless your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 7

Refrain: Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.

1 O Lord my God, in you I take refuge;[□]
save me from all who pursue me, and deliver me,

2 Lest they rend me like a lion and tear me in pieces[□]
while there is no one to help me.

3 O Lord my God, if I have done these things:[□]
if there is any wickedness in my hands,

4 If I have repaid my friend with evil,[□]

or plundered my enemy without a cause,

5 Then let my enemy pursue me and overtake me, □

trample my life to the ground,

and lay my honour in the dust. R

6 Rise up, O Lord, in your wrath;

lift yourself up against the fury of my enemies. □

Awaken, my God, the judgement that you have commanded.

7 Let the assembly of the peoples gather round you; □

be seated high above them: O Lord, judge the nations.

8 Give judgement for me

according to my righteousness, O Lord, □

and according to the innocence that is in me.

9 Let the malice of the wicked come to an end,

but establish the righteous; □

for you test the mind and heart, O righteous God. R

10 God is my shield that is over me; □

he saves the true of heart.

11 God is a righteous judge; □

he is provoked all day long.

12 If they will not repent, God will whet his sword; □

he has bent his bow and made it ready.

13 He has prepared the weapons of death; □

he makes his arrows shafts of fire. R

14 Behold those who are in labour with wickedness, □

who conceive evil and give birth to lies.

15 They dig a pit and make it deep □

and fall into the hole that they have made for others.

16 Their mischief rebounds on their own head; □

their violence falls on their own scalp.

17 I will give thanks to the Lord for his righteousness, □

and I will make music to the name of the Lord Most High.

Refrain: Give judgement for me
according to my righteousness, O Lord.

Lord, your justice turns evil on itself:
move us to examine our hearts
and repent of all duplicity;
for the sake of Jesus Christ,
our Judge and righteous Saviour.

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 28.1-13

Ah, the proud garland of the drunkards of Ephraim,
and the fading flower of its glorious beauty,
which is on the head of those bloated with rich food, of those overcome with wine!

See, the Lord has one who is mighty and strong;
like a storm of hail, a destroying tempest,
like a storm of mighty, overflowing waters;
with his hand he will hurl them down to the earth.

Trampled under foot will be
the proud garland of the drunkards of Ephraim.

And the fading flower of its glorious beauty,
which is on the head of those bloated with rich food,
will be like a first-ripe fig before the summer;
whoever sees it, eats it up
as soon as it comes to hand.

On that day the Lord of hosts will be a garland of glory,
and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people;
and a spirit of justice to the one who sits in judgement,
and strength to those who turn back the battle at the gate.

These also reel with wine
and stagger with strong drink;
the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink,
they are confused with wine,
they stagger with strong drink;
they err in vision,
they stumble in giving judgement.
All tables are covered with filthy vomit;
no place is clean.

'Whom will he teach knowledge,
and to whom will he explain the message?

Those who are weaned from milk,
those taken from the breast?

For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept,
line upon line, line upon line,
here a little, there a little.'

Truly, with stammering lip
and with alien tongue
he will speak to this people,
to whom he has said,

'This is rest;
give rest to the weary;
and this is repose';
yet they would not hear.

Therefore the word of the Lord will be to them,
'Precept upon precept, precept upon precept,
line upon line, line upon line,
here a little, there a little';
in order that they may go, and fall backwards,
and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Canticle

A Song of the Wilderness, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 30 \(page 581\)](#) or [number 49 \(page 601\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Lift up your voice with strength,

O herald of good tidings.

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice,[□]
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

2 They shall see the glory of the Lord,[□]
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weary hands,[□]
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,
your God is coming with judgement,[□]
coming with judgement to save you.'

5 Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,[□]
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6 Then shall the lame leap like a hart,[□]
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

7 For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,[□]
and streams in the desert;

8 The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing,[□]
with everlasting joy upon their heads.

9 Joy and gladness shall be theirs,[□]
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10

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 Lift up your voice with strength,

O herald of good tidings.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Matthew 12.38-end

Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to him, 'Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.' But he answered them, 'An evil and adulterous generation asks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For just as Jonah was for three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so for three days and three nights the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth. The people of Nineveh will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the proclamation of Jonah, and see, something greater than Jonah is here! The queen of the South will rise up at the judgement with this generation and condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to listen to the wisdom of Solomon, and see, something greater than Solomon is here!

'When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting-place, but it finds none. Then it says, "I will return to my house from which I came." When it comes, it finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then it goes and brings along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So will it be also with this evil generation.'

While he was still speaking to the crowds, his mother and his brothers were standing outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, 'Look, your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.' But to the one who had told him this, Jesus replied, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' And pointing to his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.'

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

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,

All for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

All for the night is far spent.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness

and put on the armour of light,

All for the day is at hand.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

and make no provision for the flesh,

All for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

from Romans 13

Gospel Cantic

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said, or [A Song of Redemption \(page 620\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.

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 Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.

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 Church, that she may be ready for the coming of Christ
- ¶ The leaders of the Church
- ¶ The nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God
- ¶ Those who are working for justice in the world
- ¶ The broken, that they may find God's healing

A form of prayer found [on page 377](#) 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

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him 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

Awaiting his coming in glory,

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)

Awaiting his coming in glory,

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 the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

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