

☩ Morning Prayer on Thursday

Thursday, 23 June 2022

Etheldreda, Abbess of Ely, c.678 [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 Blessing

1 God be gracious to us and bless us, â€¦

and make his face to shine upon us,

2 That your way may be known upon earth, â€¦

your saving power among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; â€¦

let all the peoples praise you.

4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, â€¦

for you will judge the peoples righteously

and govern the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; â€¦

let all the peoples praise you.

6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, â€¦

and God, our own God, will bless us.

7 God will bless us, â€¦

and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Psalm 67

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 37*

Refrain: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord.

1 Fret not because of evildoers; Â â!;

be not jealous of those who do wrong.

2 For they shall soon wither like grass Â â!;

and like the green herb fade away.

3 Trust in the Lord and be doing good; Â â!;

dwell in the land and be nourished with truth.

4 Let your delight be in the Lord Â â!;

and he will give you your heart's desire.

5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, Â â!;

and he will bring it to pass.

6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light Â â!;

and your just dealing as the noonday. Â R

7 Be still before the Lord and wait for him; Â â!;

do not fret over those that prosper

as they follow their evil schemes.

8 Refrain from anger and abandon wrath; Â â!;

do not fret, lest you be moved to do evil.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off,Â Æ;

but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.

10 Yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more;Â Æ;

you will search for their place and find them gone.

11 But the lowly shall possess the landÂ Æ;

and shall delight in abundance of peace.Â R

12 The wicked plot against the righteousÂ Æ;

and gnash at them with their teeth.

13 The Lord shall laugh at the wicked,Â Æ;

for he sees that their day is coming.

14 The wicked draw their sword and bend their bow

to strike down the poor and needy,Â Æ;

to slaughter those who walk in truth.

15 Their sword shall go through their own heartÂ Æ;

and their bows shall be broken.

16 The little that the righteous haveÂ Æ;

is better than great riches of the wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,Â Æ;

but the Lord upholds the righteous.Â R

18 The Lord knows the days of the godly,Â Æ;

and their inheritance shall stand for ever.

19 They shall not be put to shame in the perilous time,Â Æ;

and in days of famine they shall have enough.

20 But the wicked shall perish;

like the glory of the meadows

the enemies of the Lord shall vanish;Â Æ;

they shall vanish like smoke.

21 The wicked borrow and do not repay,Â Æ;

but the righteous are generous in giving.

22 For those who are blest by God shall possess the land,Â â!;
but those who are cursed by him shall be rooted out.Â R

23 When your steps are guided by the LordÂ â!
and you delight in his way,

24 Though you stumble, you shall not fall headlong,Â â!
for the Lord holds you fast by the hand.

25 I have been young and now am old,Â â!
yet never have I seen the righteous forsaken,
or their children begging their bread.

26 All the day long they are generous in lending,Â â!
and their children also shall be blest.Â R

27 Depart from evil and do goodÂ â!
and you shall abide for ever.

28 For the Lord loves the thing that is rightÂ â!
and will not forsake his faithful ones.

29 The unjust shall be destroyed for ever,Â â!
and the offspring of the wicked shall be rooted out.

30 The righteous shall possess the landÂ â!
and dwell in it for ever.Â R

31 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,Â â!
and their tongue speaks the thing that is right.

32 The law of their God is in their heartÂ â!
and their footsteps shall not slide.

33 The wicked spy on the righteousÂ â!
and seek occasion to slay them.

34 The Lord will not leave them in their hand,Â â!
nor let them be condemned when they are judged.Â R

35 Wait upon the Lord and keep his way;Â â!
he will raise you up to possess the land,
and when the wicked are uprooted, you shall see it.

36 I myself have seen the wicked in great power
and flourishing like a tree in full leaf.

37 I went by and lo, they were gone;
I sought them, but they could nowhere be found.

38 Keep innocence and heed the thing that is right,
for that will bring you peace at the last.

39 But the sinners shall perish together,
and the posterity of the wicked shall be rooted out.

40 The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

41 The Lord shall stand by them and deliver them;
he shall deliver them from the wicked and shall save them,
because they have put their trust in him.

Refrain: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord.

Blessed and holy God,
ever merciful and forgiving,
may we turn from what is evil
and do what is good in your sight,
for you have saved us by the cross of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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.

Joshua 23

A long time afterwards, when the Lord had given rest to Israel from all their enemies all around, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, Joshua summoned all Israel, their elders and heads, their judges and officers, and said to them, "I am now old and well advanced in years; and you have seen all that the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the Lord your God who has fought for you. I have allotted to you as an inheritance for your tribes those nations that remain, along with all the nations that I have already cut off, from the Jordan to the Great Sea in the west. The Lord your God will push them back

before you, and drive them out of your sight; and you shall possess their land, as the Lord your God promised you. Therefore be very steadfast to observe and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right nor to the left, so that you may not be mixed with these nations left here among you, or make mention of the names of their gods, or swear by them, or serve them, or bow yourselves down to them, but hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day. For the Lord has driven out before you great and strong nations; and as for you, no one has been able to withstand you to this day. One of you puts to flight a thousand, since it is the Lord your God who fights for you, as he promised you. Be very careful, therefore, to love the Lord your God. For if you turn back, and join the survivors of these nations left here among you, and intermarry with them, so that you marry their women and they yours, know assuredly that the Lord your God will not continue to drive out these nations before you; but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a scourge on your sides, and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land that the Lord your God has given you.

And now I am about to go the way of all the earth, and you know in your hearts and souls, all of you, that not one thing has failed of all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you; all have come to pass for you, not one of them has failed. But just as all the good things that the Lord your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the Lord will bring upon you all the bad things, until he has destroyed you from this good land that the Lord your God has given you. If you transgress the covenant of the Lord your God, which he enjoined on you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, then the anger of the Lord will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land that he has given to you.

Canticle

A Song of the Covenant, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 44 \(page 596\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.

1 Thus says God, who created the heavens,
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

2 Who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it,

3 I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

4 I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

5 To bring out the captives from the dungeon,
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

6 I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other.

Isaiah 42.5-8a

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 have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Luke 12.32-40

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

All Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.

All have called you by name; you are mine.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

from Isaiah 43

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,
or [Gloria in Excelsis \(A Song of God's Glory\) \(page 635\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as an eagle.

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, â€¦
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, â€¦
born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old â€¦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors, â€¦
and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: â€¦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, â€¦
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, â€¦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation â€¦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God â€¦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, â€¦
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 They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings as an eagle.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

Â¶ for the day and its tasks

Â¶ for the world and its needs

Â¶ for the Church and her life

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

Â¶ Local government, community leaders

Â¶ All who provide local services

Â¶ Those who work with young or elderly people

Â¶ Schools, colleges and universities

Â¶ Emergency and rescue organizations

One of the forms of prayer found [on pages 362â€¦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

Eternal God,

who bestowed such grace upon your servant Etheldreda

that she gave herself wholly to the life of prayer

and to the service of your true religion:
grant that we, like her,
may so live our lives on earth seeking your kingdom
that by your guiding
we may be joined to the glorious fellowship of your saints;
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.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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

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

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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