

Evening Prayer

Friday, 24 June 2022

The Birth of John the Baptist

Ember Day

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

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,

creator of light and darkness,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

As evening falls, you renew your promise

to reveal among us the light of your presence.

May your word be a lantern to our feet

and a light upon our path

that we may behold your coming among us.

Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness

and free our tongues to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

[A Song of Mercy and Truth \(page 559\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

Creator of the stars of night,
thy people's everlasting light,
O Jesu, Saviour of us all,
regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save a ruined race
with healing gifts of heavenly grace.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride,
as drew the world to evening-tide,
proceeding from a virgin shrine,
the Son of Man, yet Lord divine.

At thy great name, exalted now,
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow,
and things in heaven and earth shall own
that thou art Lord and King alone.

To thee, O holy One, we pray
our judge in that tremendous day,
preserve us, while we dwell below,
from every onslaught of the foe.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore.

Latin, tr: J M Neale

(Tune: LM)

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.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 80

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, *â€*!

you that led Joseph like a flock;

2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, *â€*!

before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

3 Stir up your mighty strength *â€*!

and come to our salvation.

4 *Turn us again, O God; â€*!

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

5 O Lord God of hosts, *â€*!

how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

6 You feed them with the bread of tears; *â€*!

you give them abundance of tears to drink.

7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours *â€*!

and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

8 *Turn us again, O God of hosts; â€*!

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

9 You brought a vine out of Egypt; *â€*!

you drove out the nations and planted it.

10 You made room around it, *â€*!

and when it had taken root, it filled the land.

11 The hills were covered with its shadow *â€*!

and the cedars of God by its boughs.

12 It stretched out its branches to the Sea¹
and its tendrils to the River.

13 Why then have you broken down its wall,¹
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

14 The wild boar out of the wood tears it off,¹
and all the insects of the field devour it.

15 Turn again, O God of hosts,¹
look down from heaven and behold;

16 Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted,¹
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.

17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down,¹
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

18 Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,¹
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

19 And so will we not go back from you;¹
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

20 *Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;¹
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.*

Faithful shepherd of your people,
as we look for the light of your countenance,
restore in us the image of your glory
and graft us into the risen life of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 82

Refrain: Arise, O God, and judge the earth.

1 God has taken his stand in the council of heaven;¹
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:

2 How long will you judge unjustly;
and show such favour to the wicked?

3 You were to judge the weak and the orphan;
defend the right of the humble and needy;

4 Rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

5 They have no knowledge or wisdom;
they walk on still in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

6 Therefore I say that though you are gods;
and all of you children of the Most High,

7 Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals;
and fall like one of their princes.

8 Arise, O God and judge the earth;
for it is you that shall take all nations for your possession.

Refrain: Arise, O God, and judge the earth.

God our deliverer,
when the foundations are shaken
and justice has departed,
defend the poor and needy
and give your people strength to fight all wrong
in the name of your Son, 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.

Malachi 4

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts,

so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts.

Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

Canticle

The following, or another suitable canticle, may be said or sung

Refrain:

All Surely I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

1 Behold, I am coming soon, says the Lord,
and bringing my reward with me;
to give to everyone according to their deeds.

2 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end.

3 Blessed are those who do God's commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life,
and may enter into the city through the gates.

4 I, Jesus, have sent my angel to you
with this testimony for all the churches.

5 I am the root and the offspring of David,
I am the bright morning star.

6 Come! say the Spirit and the Bride;
Come! let each hearer reply.

7 Come forward, you who are thirsty,
let those who desire take the water of life as a gift.

Revelation 22.12-14, 16, 17

All To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb

be blessing and honour and glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.

All Surely I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

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

My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:

in your word is my hope.

All My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:

in your word is my hope.

There is forgiveness with you,

so that you shall be feared.

All In your word is my hope.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:

in your word is my hope.

from Psalm 130

Â

Gospel Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said, or [The Song of Christ's Glory \(page 619\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All The child born of Elizabeth is more than a prophet,

for he will proclaim the way of the Lord.

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; â

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; â

the Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, â

from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm â

and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones â

and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things â

and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, â

to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, â

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 The child born of Elizabeth is more than a prophet,

for he will proclaim the way of the Lord.

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

Â¶ for peace

Â¶ for individuals and their needs

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,

by whose providence your servant John the Baptist

Â Â Â Â Â was wonderfully born,

and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour

by the preaching of repentance:

lead us to repent according to his preaching

and, after his example,

constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice,

and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;

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

Awaiting his coming in glory,
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)

Awaiting his coming in glory,
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 the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.
AllThanks be to God.

Â© [The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005](#)

Official Common Worship apps, books and eBooks are available from [Church House Publishing](#).

The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from *The New Revised Standard Version Anglicized Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Implemented by Simon Kershaw at [Crucix](#).

Implementation copyright Â© Simon Kershaw, 2002-2021.

[View other services](#)

[Copy to clipboard](#)

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/evening-prayer-contemporary-friday-24-june-2022>