

Evening Prayer on Thursday

Thursday, 7 July 2022

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

[The Blessing of Light \(page 110\)](#) may replace the Preparation at Evening Prayer on any occasion.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

A prayer of thanksgiving (page 110),

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As darkness falls you renew your promise

to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word,

dispel the darkness of our hearts

that we may walk as children of light

and sing your praise throughout the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All Blessed be God for ever.

or a suitable hymn,

or A Song of God's Chosen One

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse, and

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, and

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

3 The spirit of counsel and might, and

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

4 He shall not judge by what his eyes see, and

or decide by what his ears hear,

5But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, â€¦

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

6The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, â€¦

and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

7The calf, the lion and the fatling together, â€¦

with a little child to lead them.

8They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, â€¦

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11.1,2,3b-4a,6,9

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

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 78.40-end*

Refrain: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord.

40 How often they rebelled against him in the wilderness
and grieved him in the desert!

41 Again and again they tempted God
and provoked the Holy One of Israel.

42 They did not remember his power
in the day when he redeemed them from the enemy;

43 How he had wrought his signs in Egypt
and his wonders in the field of Zoan.

44 He turned their rivers into blood,
so that they could not drink of their streams.

45 He sent swarms of flies among them, which devoured them,
and frogs which brought them ruin.

46 He gave their produce to the caterpillar,
the fruit of their toil to the locust.

47 He destroyed their vines with hailstones
and their sycamore trees with the frost.

48 He delivered their cattle to hailstones
and their flocks to thunderbolts.

49 He set loose on them his blazing anger,
fury, displeasure and trouble,
a troop of destroying angels.

50 He made a way for his anger
and spared not their souls from death,
but gave their life over to the pestilence.

51 He smote the firstborn of Egypt,
the first fruits of their strength in the tents of Ham.

52 But he led out his people like sheep
and guided them in the wilderness like a flock.

53 He led them to safety and they were not afraid,
but the sea overwhelmed their enemies.

54 He brought them to his holy place,
the mountain which his right hand took in possession.

55 He drove out the nations before them
and shared out to them their inheritance;
he settled the tribes of Israel in their tents.

56 Yet still they tested God Most High
and rebelled against him,
and would not keep his commandments.

57 They turned back and fell away like their forebears,
starting aside like an unstrung bow.

58 They grieved him with their hill altars
and provoked him to displeasure with their idols.

59 God heard and was greatly angered,
and utterly rejected Israel.

60 He forsook the tabernacle at Shiloh,
the tent of his presence on earth.

61 He gave the ark of his strength into captivity,
his splendour into the adversary's hand.

62 He delivered his people to the sword
and raged against his inheritance.

63 The fire consumed their young men,
there was no one to lament their maidens.

64 Their priests fell by the sword,
and their widows made no lamentation.

65 Then the Lord woke as out of sleep,
like a warrior who had been overcome with wine.

66 He struck his enemies from behind
and put them to perpetual shame.

67 He rejected the tent of Joseph
and chose not the tribe of Ephraim,

68 But he chose the tribe of Judah
and the hill of Zion, which he loved.

69 And there he built his sanctuary like the heights of heaven,
like the earth which he founded for ever.

70 He chose David also, his servant,
and took him away from the sheepfolds.

71 From following the ewes with their lambs he took him,
that he might shepherd Jacob his people
and Israel his inheritance.

72 So he shepherded them with a devoted heart
and with skilful hands he guided them.

Refrain: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord.

God our shepherd,
in all our wanderings and temptations,
teach us to rest in your mercy
and trust in your defence;
through him who laid down his life for us,
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.

Ezra 10.1-17

While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children

gathered to him out of Israel; the people also wept bitterly. Shecaniah son of Jehiel, of the descendants of Elam, addressed Ezra, saying, "We have broken faith with our God and have married foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this. So now let us make a covenant with our God to send away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law. Take action, for it is your duty, and we are with you; be strong, and do it." Then Ezra stood up and made the leading priests, the Levites, and all Israel swear that they would do as had been said. So they swore.

Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God, and went to the chamber of Jehohanan son of Eliashib, where he spent the night. He did not eat bread or drink water, for he was mourning over the faithlessness of the exiles. They made a proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles that they should assemble at Jerusalem, and that if any did not come within three days, by order of the officials and the elders all their property should be forfeited, and they themselves banned from the congregation of the exiles.

Then all the people of Judah and Benjamin assembled at Jerusalem within the three days; it was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month. All the people sat in the open square before the house of God, trembling because of this matter and because of the heavy rain. Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have trespassed and married foreign women, and so increased the guilt of Israel. Now make confession to the Lord the God of your ancestors, and do his will; separate yourselves from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives." Then all the assembly answered with a loud voice, "It is so; we must do as you have said. But the people are many, and it is a time of heavy rain; we cannot stand in the open. Nor is this a task for one day or for two, for many of us have transgressed in this matter. Let our officials represent the whole assembly, and let all in our towns who have taken foreign wives come at appointed times, and with them the elders and judges of every town, until the fierce wrath of our God on this account is averted from us." Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah opposed this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levites supported them.

Then the returned exiles did so. Ezra the priest selected men, heads of families, according to their families, each of them designated by name. On the first day of the tenth month they sat down to examine the matter. By the first day of the first month they had come to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.

Canticle

Great and Wonderful, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 63 \(page 621\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
and share in the feast of your kingdom.

1 Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord;
Lord God the Almighty.

2 Just and true are your ways, O Lord;
O ruler of the nations.

3 Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord? O Lord,
for you alone are holy.

4All nations shall come and worship in your presence: â€¦
for your just dealings have been revealed.

Revelation 15.3, 4

AllTo the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb â€¦
be blessing and honour and glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.

AllAll nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,
and share in the feast of your kingdom.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Romans 13.1-7

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

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 I 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 Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,
or [A Song of Christ's Appearing \(page 621\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

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.

7He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, â€¦
to remember his promise of mercy,

8The promise made to our ancestors, â€¦
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:

AllYou have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

Â¶ for peace

Â¶ for individuals and their needs

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

Almighty God,

you have broken the tyranny of sin

and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts

whereby we call you Father:

give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,

that we and all creation may be brought

to the glorious liberty of the children of God;

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

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

All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

be with us all evermore.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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