

¶ Evening Prayer

from All Saints' Day until

the day before the First Sunday of Advent

Friday, 25 November 2022

Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th century [Commemoration]

Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748 [Commemoration]

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

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,

our light and our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

Now, as darkness is falling,

wash away our transgressions,

cleanse us by your refining fire

and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.

By the light of Christ,

dispel the darkness of our hearts

and make us ready to enter your kingdom,

where songs of praise for ever sound.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

[A Song of Tobit \(page 596\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

Give me the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

Once they were mourning here below,
and wet their couch with tears;
they wrestled hard, as we do now,
with sins and doubts and fears.

I ask them whence their victory came:
they, with united breath,
ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast,
and, following their incarnate God,
possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern given;
while the long cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heaven.

Isaac Watts

(Tune: CM)

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 146

Refrain: The Lord shall reign for ever.

1 Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, O my soul:

while I live will I praise the Lord; ☩

as long as I have any being,

I will sing praises to my God.

2 Put not your trust in princes,

nor in any human power, ☩

for there is no help in them.

3 When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth; ☩

on that day all their thoughts perish. R

4 Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, ☩

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth,

the sea and all that is in them; ☩

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong ☩

and bread to those who hunger. R

7 The Lord looses those that are bound; ☩

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

8 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; ☩

the Lord loves the righteous;

9 The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;

he upholds the orphan and widow; ☩

but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

10 The Lord shall reign for ever, □

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Alleluia.

Refrain: The Lord shall reign for ever.

Lord of all,

our breath and being come from you,

yet our earthly end is dust;

as you loose the bound and feed the hungry,

so bring us in your mercy through the grave and gate of death

to the feast of eternal life,

where you reign for evermore.

Psalm 147

Refrain: Great is our Lord and mighty in power.

1 Alleluia.

How good it is to make music for our God, □

how joyful to honour him with praise.

2 The Lord builds up Jerusalem □

and gathers together the outcasts of Israel.

3 He heals the brokenhearted □

and binds up all their wounds. R

4 He counts the number of the stars □

and calls them all by their names.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; □

his wisdom is beyond all telling.

6 The Lord lifts up the poor, □

but casts down the wicked to the ground. R

7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; □

make music to our God upon the lyre;

8 Who covers the heavens with clouds □

and prepares rain for the earth;

9 Who makes grass to grow upon the mountains □

and green plants to serve our needs. R

10 He gives the beasts their food □

and the young ravens when they cry.

11 He takes no pleasure in the power of a horse, □

no delight in human strength;

12 But the Lord delights in those who fear him, □

who put their trust in his steadfast love. R

13 Sing praise to the Lord, O Jerusalem; □

praise your God, O Zion;

14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates □

and has blest your children within you.

15 He has established peace in your borders □

and satisfies you with the finest wheat. R

16 He sends forth his command to the earth □

and his word runs very swiftly.

17 He gives snow like wool □

and scatters the hoarfrost like ashes.

18 He casts down his hailstones like morsels of bread; □

who can endure his frost? R

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; □

he blows with his wind and the waters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, □

his statutes and judgements to Israel.

21 He has not dealt so with any other nation; □

they do not know his laws.

Alleluia.

Refrain: Great is our Lord and mighty in power.

Compassionate God,
as you know each star you have created,
so you know the secrets of every heart;
in your loving mercy bring to your table
all who are fearful and broken,
all who are wounded and needy,
that our hungers may be satisfied
in the city of your peace;
through Christ who is our peace.

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 God's Assembled, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 70 \(page 628\)](#) or [number 73 \(page 631\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

1 We have come before God's holy mountain, ☩
to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

2 We have come before countless angels making festival, ☩
before the assembly of the firstborn citizens of heaven.

3 We have come before God, who is judge of all, ☩
before the spirits of the just made perfect.

4 We have come before Jesus, ☩
the mediator of the new covenant.

5 We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken: ☩
so let us give thanks and offer to God acceptable worship,

6 Full of reverence and awe; ☩
for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:22-24a, 28, 29

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 we have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

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

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel

and afterwards receive me with glory.

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel

and afterwards receive me with glory.

For I am always with you;

you hold me by my right hand.

All And afterwards receive me with glory.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel

and afterwards receive me with glory.

from Psalm 73

Gospel Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,

or the [Nunc dimittis \(The Song of the Simeon\) \(page 613\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All The righteous will shine like the sun

in the kingdom of their Father.

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ☩

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2From this day all generations will call me blessed; □

the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

3He has mercy on those who fear him, □

from generation to generation.

4He has shown strength with his arm □

and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5Casting down the mighty from their thrones □

and lifting up the lowly.

6He has filled the hungry with good things □

and sent the rich away empty.

7He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, □

to remember his promise of mercy,

8The promise made to our ancestors, □

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:

AllThe righteous will shine like the sun

in the kingdom of their Father.

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ for peace

¶ for individuals and their needs

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
- ¶ 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

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 Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.
AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.
AllThanks be to God.

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