Morning Prayer

Advent

Saturday, 17 December 2022

Eglantyne Jebb, Social Reformer, Founder of ‘Save The Children’, 1928

[Commemoration]

O Sapientia

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
Alland our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
Allthat 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.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of the King's Glory
The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

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

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;

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

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

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

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

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

Psalm 24

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 71

Refrain: O God, be not far from me.

1 In you, O Lord, do I seek refuge; let me never be put to shame.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be for me a stronghold to which I may ever resort; send out to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence, even from my youth.

6 Upon you have I leaned from my birth, when you drew me from my mother’s womb; my praise shall be always of you.
7 I have become a portent to many, 
but you are my refuge and my strength.

8 Let my mouth be full of your praise 
and your glory all the day long.

9 Do not cast me away in the time of old age; 
forsake me not when my strength fails.

10 For my enemies are talking against me, 
and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.

11 They say, 'God has forsaken him; 
pursue him and take him, 
because there is none to deliver him.'

12 O God, be not far from me; 
come quickly to help me, O my God.

13 Let those who are against me 
be put to shame and disgrace; 
let those who seek to do me evil 
be covered with scorn and reproach. R

14 But as for me I will hope continually 
and will praise you more and more.

15 My mouth shall tell of your righteousness 
and salvation all the day long, 
for I know no end of the telling.

16 I will begin with the mighty works of the Lord God; 
I will recall your righteousness, yours alone. R

17 O God, you have taught me since I was young, 
and to this day I tell of your wonderful works.

18 Forsake me not, O God, 
when I am old and grey-headed, 
till I make known your deeds to the next generation 
and your power to all that are to come.
19 Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; in the great things you have done, who is like you, O God?

20 What troubles and adversities you have shown me, and yet you will turn and refresh me and bring me from the deep of the earth again.

21 Increase my honour; turn again and comfort me. R

22 Therefore will I praise you upon the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

23 My lips will sing out as I play to you, and so will my soul, which you have redeemed.

24 My tongue also will tell of your righteousness all the day long, for they shall be shamed and disgraced who sought to do me evil.

Refrain: O God, be not far from me.

Faithful Lord, living Saviour,
in youth and old age,
from the womb to the grave,
may we know your protection
and proclaim your great salvation
to the glory of God the Father.

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 52.1-12
Awake, awake,
put on your strength, O Zion!

Put on your beautiful garments,
O Jerusalem, the holy city;
for the uncircumcised and the unclean
shall enter you no more.

Shake yourself from the dust, rise up,
O captive Jerusalem;
loose the bonds from your neck,
O captive daughter Zion!

For thus says the Lord: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. For thus says the Lord God: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what am I doing here, says the Lord, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says the Lord, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore on that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Depart, depart, go out from there!
Touch no unclean thing;
go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves,
you who carry the vessels of the Lord.
For you shall not go out in haste,
and you shall not go in flight;
for the Lord will go before you,
and the God of Israel will be your rearguard.

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.

Jude

Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James,
To those who are called, who are beloved in God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ:

May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

Beloved, while eagerly preparing to write to you about the salvation we share, I find it necessary to write and appeal to you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. For certain intruders have stolen in among you, people who long ago were designated for this condemnation as ungodly, who pervert the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

Now I desire to remind you, though you are fully informed, that the Lord, who once for all saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterwards destroyed those who did not believe. And the angels who did not keep their own position, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains in deepest darkness for the judgement of the great day. Likewise, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which, in the same manner as they, indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

Yet in the same way these dreamers also defile the flesh, reject authority, and slander the glorious ones. But when the archangel Michael contended with the devil and disputed about the body of Moses, he did not dare to bring a condemnation of slander against him, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!' But these people slander whatever they do not understand, and they are destroyed by those things that, like irrational animals, they know by instinct. Woe to them! For they go the way of Cain, and abandon themselves to Balaam's error for the sake of gain, and perish in Korah's rebellion. These are blemishes on your love-feasts, while they feast with you without fear, feeding themselves. They are waterless clouds carried along by the winds; autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars, for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved for ever.
It was also about these that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, 'See, the Lord is coming with tens of thousands of his holy ones, to execute judgement on all, and to convict everyone of all the deeds of ungodliness that they have committed in such an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.' These are grumblers and malcontents; they indulge their own lusts; they are bombastic in speech, flattering people to their own advantage.

But you, beloved, must remember the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; for they said to you, 'In the last time there will be scoffers, indulging their own ungodly lusts.' It is these worldly people, devoid of the Spirit, who are causing divisions. But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. And have mercy on some who are wavering; save others by snatching them out of the fire; and have mercy on still others with fear, hating even the tunic defiled by their bodies.

Now to him who is able to keep you from falling, and to make you stand without blemish in the presence of his glory with rejoicing, to the only God our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, power, and authority, before all time and now and for ever. Amen.

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 Canticle**

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said, or [A Song of Redemption (page 620)](page9) may be said

Refrain:

All Like the sun in the morning sky,
the Saviour of the world will dawn;
like rain upon the meadows,
the Christ will come down upon us.

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.

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

To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.

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

Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.

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

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 Like the sun in the morning sky, the Saviour of the world will dawn; like rain upon the meadows, the Christ will come down upon us.
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

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
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.
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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