Morning Prayer

Christmas Season

Sunday, 1 January 2023

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

Preparation

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

You laid the foundation of the earth
All and the heavens are the work of your hands.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, sovereign God,
creator of heaven and earth,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,
may the light of your love be born in us
to fill our hearts with joy as we sing:
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
AllBlessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of the Bride

1I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, □
my soul shall exult in my God;

2Who has clothed me with the garments of salvation, □
and has covered me with the cloak of integrity,
As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth puts forth her blossom, and as seeds in the garden spring up,

So shall God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest

Until her deliverance shines out like the dawn, and her salvation as a burning torch.

The nations shall see your deliverance, and all rulers shall see your glory;

Then you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of God will give.

You shall be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Isaiah 61.10,11; 62.1-3

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.

Amen.
Psalm 103

Refrain: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and all that is within me bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, ♦
and forget not all his benefits;

3 Who forgives all your sins ♦
and heals all your infirmities;

4 Who redeems your life from the Pit ♦
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;

5 Who satisfies you with good things, ♦
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's. R

6 The Lord executes righteousness ♦
and judgement for all who are oppressed.

7 He made his ways known to Moses ♦
and his works to the children of Israel.

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, ♦
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, ♦
neither will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, ♦
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. R

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, ♦
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him. R

14 For he knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

15 Our days are but as grass;
we flourish as a flower of the field;

16 For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old
and endures for ever on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children;

18 On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments to do them. R

19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom has dominion over all.

20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word.

21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.

22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul.

Refrain: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Merciful Lord,
as we come from dust and return to dust,
show us the face of our Redeemer,
that in our frailty we may bless your name
and praise you all our days;
Psalm 150

Refrain: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

1 Alleluia.
O praise God in his holiness; ♦
praise him in the firmament of his power.

2 Praise him for his mighty acts; ♦
praise him according to his excellent greatness. R

3 Praise him with the blast of the trumpet; ♦
praise him upon the harp and lyre.

4 Praise him with timbrel and dances; ♦
praise him upon the strings and pipe. R

5 Praise him with ringing cymbals; ♦
praise him upon the clashing cymbals.

6 Let everything that has breath ♦
praise the Lord.
Alleluia.

Refrain: Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

God of life and love,
whose Son was victorious over sin and death,
make us alive with his life,
that the whole world may resound with your praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

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.

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.
Genesis 17.1-13

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. Throughout your generations every male among you shall be circumcised when he is eight days old, including the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money from any foreigner who is not of your offspring. Both the slave born in your house and the one bought with your money must be circumcised. So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant.

Canticle

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

Refrain:

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

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

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

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

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

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

6I am the Lord, that is my name;[¶]
my glory I give to no other.'
Isaiah 42.5-8a

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.

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.

Romans 2.17-29

But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast of your relation to God and know his will and determine what is best because you are instructed in the law, and if you are sure that you are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth, you, then, that teach others, will you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? You that forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? You that abhor idols, do you rob temples? You that boast in the law, do you dishonour God by breaking the law? For, as it is written, ‘The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.’

Circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law; but if you break the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. So, if those who are uncircumcised keep the requirements of the law, will not their uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? Then those who are physically uncircumcised but keep the law will condemn you that have the written code and circumcision but break the law. For a person is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is true circumcision something external and physical. Rather, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly, and real circumcision is a matter of the heart—it is spiritual and not literal. Such a person receives praise not from others but from God.

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

The Word of life which was from the beginning
All we proclaim to you.
The darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining;
All the Word of life which was from the beginning.
That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
and touched with our hands,
All we proclaim to you.
For our fellowship is with the Father,
and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
All The Word of life which was from the beginning
we proclaim to you.

from 1 John 1

**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 You shall call his name Jesus
for he will save his people from their sins.

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

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

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

4To show mercy to our ancestors, ☩
and to remember his holy covenant.

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

6Free to worship him without fear, ☩
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

7And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ☩
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8To give his people knowledge of salvation ☩
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9In 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 You shall call his name Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.

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, especially in places of conflict
¶ The Holy Land, for peace with justice, and reconciliation
¶ Refugees and asylum seekers
¶ Homeless people
¶ Families with young children

A form of prayer found on page 378 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,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world:
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

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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)

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

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