

## ¶ Evening Prayer on Wednesday

**Wednesday, 8 February 2023**

### Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

AllO 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:

AllBlessed be God for ever.

or a suitable hymn,

or A Song of God's Descending

1I love you, O Lord my strength. □

The Lord is my crag, my fortress and my deliverer.

2In my distress I called upon the Lord □

and cried out to my God for help.

3He heard my voice in his temple □

and my cry came to his ears.

4He parted the heavens and came down □  
and thick darkness was under his feet.

5He rode upon the cherubim and flew; □  
he came flying on the wings of the wind.

6He made darkness his covering round about him, □  
dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.

7From the brightness of his presence, through the clouds □  
burst hailstones and coals of fire.

8The Lord also thundered out of heaven; □  
the Most High uttered his voice  
with hailstones and coals of fire.

9For you will save a lowly people □  
and bring down the high looks of the proud.

10You also shall light my candle; □  
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

11As for God, his way is perfect;  
the word of the Lord is tried in the fire; □  
he is a shield to all who trust in him.

Psalms 18:1, 6, 7, 10-14, 28, 29, 31

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

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 119.33-56

Refrain: My delight shall be in your commandments.

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes □  
and I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding and I shall keep your law; □  
I shall keep it with my whole heart.

35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, □  
for therein is my delight.

36 Incline my heart to your testimonies □  
and not to unjust gain. R

37 Turn away my eyes lest they gaze on vanities; □  
O give me life in your ways.

38 Confirm to your servant your promise, □  
which stands for all who fear you.

39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, □  
because your judgements are good.

40 Behold, I long for your commandments; □  
in your righteousness give me life. R

41 Let your faithful love come unto me, O Lord, □  
even your salvation, according to your promise.

42 Then shall I answer those who taunt me, □  
for my trust is in your word.

43 O take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, □  
for my hope is in your judgements.

44 So shall I always keep your law; □  
I shall keep it for ever and ever. R

45 I will walk at liberty, □  
because I study your commandments.

46 I will tell of your testimonies, even before kings, □  
and will not be ashamed.

47 My delight shall be in your commandments, □  
which I have greatly loved.

48 My hands will I lift up to your commandments,  
which I love, □  
and I will meditate on your statutes. R

49 Remember your word to your servant, □  
on which you have built my hope.

50 This is my comfort in my trouble, □  
that your promise gives me life.

51 The proud have derided me cruelly, □  
but I have not turned aside from your law.

52 I have remembered your everlasting judgements, O Lord, □  
and have been comforted. R

53 I am seized with indignation at the wicked, □  
for they have forsaken your law.

54 Your statutes have been like songs to me □  
in the house of my pilgrimage.

55 I have thought on your name in the night, O Lord, □  
and so have I kept your law.

56 These blessings have been mine, □  
for I have kept your commandments.

Refrain: My delight shall be in your commandments.

God of loving mercy,  
in this place of our pilgrimage  
turn your laws into songs,  
that we may find your promises  
fulfilled in 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.

## **Genesis 25.7-11, 19-end**

This is the length of Abraham's life, one hundred and seventy-five years. Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. His sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with his wife Sarah. After the death of Abraham God blessed his son Isaac. And Isaac settled at Beer-lahai-roi.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

'Two nations are in your womb,  
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;  
one shall be stronger than the other,  
the elder shall serve the younger.'

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau

despised his birthright.

## Canticle

A Song of the Blessed, or another suitable canticle,  
for example, [number 69 \(page 627\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Rejoice and be glad  
for you are the light of the world,  
and great is your reward in heaven.

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, ☩  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Blessed are those who mourn, ☩  
for they shall be comforted.

3 Blessed are the meek, ☩  
for they shall inherit the earth.

4 Blessed are those who hunger  
and thirst after righteousness, ☩  
for they shall be satisfied.

5 Blessed are the merciful, ☩  
for they shall obtain mercy.

6 Blessed are the pure in heart, ☩  
for they shall see God.

7 Blessed are the peacemakers, ☩  
for they shall be called children of God.

8 Blessed are those who suffer persecution  
for righteousness' sake, ☩  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3-10

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 Rejoice and be glad

for you are the light of the world,  
and great is your reward in heaven.

## Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

## 2 Timothy 1.1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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 Canticle

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

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

All Remember your promise of mercy,

to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

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

the Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, □

from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm □

and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones □

and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things □

and sent the rich away empty.

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

to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, □

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.

All Remember your promise of mercy,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

## 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 362–363](#)

¶ The social services

¶ All who work in the criminal justice system

¶ Victims and perpetrators of crime

¶ The work of aid agencies throughout the world

¶ Those living in poverty or under oppression

One of the forms of prayer found [on pages 362–371](#) 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,

who alone can bring order

to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity:

give your people grace  
so to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, among the many changes of this world,  
our hearts may surely there be fixed  
where true joys are to be found;  
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.

AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

AllOur 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

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

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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