

¶ Evening Prayer

Lent

Sunday, 19 March 2023

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

(Mothering Sunday)

mothering-sunday

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

All according to your judgement give us life.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts

to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God

in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,

that freed from the misery of sin and shame

we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

[A Song of Entreaty \(page 568\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earthborn passions set me free,
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me
with many a care opprest;
let me thy loving servant be,
and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.

George the Sinner, tr: A W Chatfield
(Tune: SM)

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 31.1-16

Refrain: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; ☩
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; ☩
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ☩
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

4 Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me, ☩
for you are my strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, ☩
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. R

6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols; ☩
I put my trust in the Lord.

7 I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy, ☩
for you have seen my affliction
and known my soul in adversity.

8 You have not shut me up in the hand of the enemy; ☩
you have set my feet in an open place. R

9 Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble; ☩
my eye is consumed with sorrow,
my soul and my body also.

10 For my life is wasted with grief,
and my years with sighing; ☩
my strength fails me because of my affliction,
and my bones are consumed.

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies
and even to my neighbours,
an object of dread to my acquaintances; ☩
when they see me in the street they flee from me.

12 I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind; ☩
I have become like a broken vessel.

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;
fear is on every side; ☩
they scheme together against me,
and plot to take my life. R

14 But my trust is in you, O Lord. ☩
I have said, 'You are my God.

15 'My times are in your hand; ☩
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

16 'Make your face to shine upon your servant, ☩
and save me for your mercy's sake.'

Refrain: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Lord Jesus Christ,
when scorn and shame besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God.

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.

Micah 7

Woe is me! For I have become like one who,

after the summer fruit has been gathered,

after the vintage has been gleaned,

finds no cluster to eat;

there is no first-ripe fig for which I hunger.

The faithful have disappeared from the land,

and there is no one left who is upright;

they all lie in wait for blood,

and they hunt each other with nets.

Their hands are skilled to do evil;

the official and the judge ask for a bribe,

and the powerful dictate what they desire;

thus they pervert justice.

The best of them is like a brier,

the most upright of them a thorn hedge.

The day of their sentinels, of their punishment, has come;

now their confusion is at hand.

Put no trust in a friend,

have no confidence in a loved one;

guard the doors of your mouth

from her who lies in your embrace;

for the son treats the father with contempt,

the daughter rises up against her mother,

the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

your enemies are members of your own household.

But as for me, I will look to the Lord,

I will wait for the God of my salvation;

my God will hear me.

Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy;

when I fall, I shall rise;

when I sit in darkness,

the Lord will be a light to me.

I must bear the indignation of the Lord,

because I have sinned against him,

until he takes my side

and executes judgement for me.

He will bring me out to the light;

I shall see his vindication.

Then my enemy will see,

and shame will cover her who said to me,

'Where is the Lord your God?'

My eyes will see her downfall;

now she will be trodden down

like the mire of the streets.

A day for the building of your walls!

In that day the boundary shall be far extended.

In that day they will come to you

from Assyria to Egypt,

and from Egypt to the River,

from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.

But the earth will be desolate

because of its inhabitants,

for the fruit of their doings.

Shepherd your people with your staff,

the flock that belongs to you,

which lives alone in a forest

in the midst of a garden land;

let them feed in Bashan and Gilead

as in the days of old.

As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt,

show us marvellous things.

The nations shall see and be ashamed

of all their might;

they shall lay their hands on their mouths;

their ears shall be deaf;

they shall lick dust like a snake,

like the crawling things of the earth;

they shall come trembling out of their fortresses;

they shall turn in dread to the Lord our God,
and they shall stand in fear of you.

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression
of the remnant of your possession?

He does not retain his anger for ever,
because he delights in showing clemency.

He will again have compassion upon us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.

You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.

You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors
from the days of old.

or [Prayer of Manasseh](#)

Canticle

A Song of Christ the Servant, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 61 \(page 619\)](#) or [number 67 \(page 625\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Christ committed no sin,
no guile was found on his lips.

1 Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, □
that you should follow in his steps.

2 He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips, □
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.

3 When he suffered, he did not threaten, □
but he trusted himself to God who judges justly.

4 Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, □
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

5By his wounds, you have been healed,
for you were straying like sheep, □
but have now returned
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2.21b-25

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.

AllChrist committed no sin,
no guile was found on his lips.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

James 5

Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts on a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and

anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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

Forsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

AllForsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

Make haste to help me,

O Lord of my salvation.

AllBe not far from me, O my God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

AllForsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

from Psalm 38

Gospel Cantic

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

or [A Song of Praise \(page 627\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

AllCome, let us return to the Lord,

for our God will richly pardon.

1My 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:

AllCome, let us return to the Lord,
for our God will richly pardon.

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](#)

¶ Those preparing for baptism and confirmation

¶ Those serving through leadership

¶ Those looking for forgiveness

¶ Those misled by the false gods of this present age

¶ All who are hungry

A form of prayer found [on page 380](#) may be used.

The Litany [on pages 400-403](#) may be said instead of the Prayers.

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

God our Father,

who from the family of your servant David

raised up Joseph the carpenter

to be the guardian of your incarnate Son

and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

give us grace to follow him

in faithful obedience to your commands;

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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Trusting in the compassion of God,

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)

Trusting in the compassion of God,

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

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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