

**Evening Prayer from**

***The Book of Common Prayer***

Sunday, 7 January 2024

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

*The [introduction](#) to the service is used on Sundays, and may be used on any occasion. If the Introduction is not used, the service begins with the [opening responses](#).*

¶ *Introduction*

*The minister may use a [seasonal](#) sentence before using one or more of the [penitential](#) sentences.*

*The minister introduces the service*

Dearly beloved [brethren],

the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge  
and confess our manifold sins and wickedness;

[and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before  
the face of almighty God our heavenly Father;

but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and  
obedient heart;

to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same  
by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge  
our sins before God;

yet ought we most chiefly so to do,

when we assemble and meet together

to render thanks for the great benefits that we have  
received at his hands,

to set forth his most worthy praise,

to hear his most holy word,

and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary,  
as well for the body as the soul.]

Wherefore I pray and beseech you,

as many as are here present,  
to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice,  
unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying [after me]:

*(or)*

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

*All*

**Almighty and most merciful Father,**

**we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed too much the devices and desires**

**of our own hearts.**

**We have offended against thy holy laws.**

**We have left undone those things**

**which we ought to have done;**

**and we have done those things**

**which we ought not to have done;**

**and there is no health in us.**

**But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.**

**Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.**

**Restore thou them that are penitent;**

**according to thy promises declared unto mankind**

**in Christ Jesu our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,**

**that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,**

**to the glory of thy holy name.**

**Amen.**

*A priest says*

who desireth not the death of a sinner,  
but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live;  
and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers  
to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent,  
the absolution and remission of their sins:

he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent  
and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance,  
and his Holy Spirit,

that those things may please him which we do at this present;  
and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy;

so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*or other ministers may say*

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,

to thy faithful people pardon and peace,

that they may be cleansed from all their sins,

and serve thee with a quiet mind;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Our Father, which art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done,**

**in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive them that 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.**

¶ *Evening Prayer*

The [introduction](#) to the service is used on Sundays, and may be used on any occasion. If the Introduction is not used, the service begins with the [opening responses](#).

*These responses are used*

O Lord, open thou our lips

All **and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost;

All **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

All **The Lord's name be praised.**

*Psalmody*

## **Psalm 46**

1 God is our hope and strength \*

a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved \*

and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea.

3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell \*

and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.

4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God \*

the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.

- 5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed \*  
God shall help her, and that right early.
- 6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved \*  
but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us \*  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord \*  
what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
- 9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world \*  
he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the  
chariots in the fire.
- 10 Be still then, and know that I am God \*  
I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us \*  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

## **Psalm 47**

- 1 Clap your hands together, all ye people \*  
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
- 2 For the Lord is high, and to be feared \*  
he is the great King upon all the earth.
- 3 He shall subdue the people under us \*  
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He shall choose out an heritage for us \*  
even the worship of Jacob, whom he loved.
- 5 God is gone up with a merry noise \*  
and the Lord with the sound of the trump.

6 O sing praises, sing praises unto our God \*  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.

7 For God is the King of all the earth \*  
sing ye praises with understanding.

8 God reigneth over the heathen \*  
God sitteth upon his holy seat.

9 The princes of the people are joined unto the people of the God of Abraham \*  
for God, which is very high exalted, doth defend the earth, as it were with a  
shield.

*At the end of each psalm these words are said or sung*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*Old Testament Reading*

## First Reading: Isaiah 42.1-9

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.

Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

### *Magnificat*

*Either the Magnificat (as follows) or [Cantate Domino](#) (Psalm 98) is said or sung.*

1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

2 For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

3 For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.

4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :

and holy is his Name.

- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*New Testament Reading*



## Second Reading: Ephesians 2.1-10

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

*Nunc dimittis*

*Either the Nunc dimittis (as follows) or [Deus misereatur](#) (Psalm 67) is said or sung.*

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.

2 For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation;

3 Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;

4 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

*The Apostles' Creed*

*All* **I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

*Prayers*

The Lord be with you.

*All* **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **Our Father, which art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done,**

**in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*All* **And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the King.

*All* **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*All* **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

*All* **And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*All* **Because there is none other that fighteth for us,**

**but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*All* **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

*Three Collects are said.*

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to receive the prayers of thy people which call upon thee; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*     **Amen.**

*The Collect for Peace*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,  
and all just works do proceed;  
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;  
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,  
and also that, by thee,  
we being defended from the fear of our enemies  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*All*     **Amen.**

*The Collect for Aid against all Perils*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy defend us  
from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*All*     **Amen.**

*The order for the end of the service may include:*

¶ *hymns or anthems*

¶ *a sermon*

¶ *further prayers (which may include prayers from [here](#))*

*This prayer may be used to conclude the service*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,

be with us all evermore.

*All* **Amen.**

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