

🕯 Evening Prayer

Easter Season

Friday, 26 April 2024

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

Allo Lord, make haste to help us.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

Alleluia! heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,

the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the deep waters of death

you brought your people to new birth

by raising your Son to life in triumph.

Through him dark death has been destroyed

and radiant life is everywhere restored.

As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light

may our lives reflect his glory

and our lips repeat the endless song.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Alleluia! Blessed be God for ever.

[A Song of David \(page 573\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,

your sweetest notes employ,

the Paschal victory to hymn

in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's lion burst his chains
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's domains,
the long-imprisoned dead.

Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
his mercy we implore,
into his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run. Alleluia, Amen.

Fulbert of Chartres, tr: Robert Campbell
(Tune: CM)

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 36

Refrain: With you, O God, is the well of life.

1 Sin whispers to the wicked, in the depths of their heart; □
there is no fear of God before their eyes.

2 They flatter themselves in their own eyes □
that their abominable sin will not be found out.

3 The words of their mouth are unrighteous and full of deceit; □
they have ceased to act wisely and to do good.

4 They think out mischief upon their beds
and have set themselves in no good way; □
nor do they abhor that which is evil. R

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens □
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; □
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.

7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! □
All mortal flesh shall take refuge
under the shadow of your wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; □
they shall drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life □
and in your light shall we see light. R

10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you □
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, □
nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.

12 There are they fallen, all who work wickedness. ☩

They are cast down and shall not be able to stand.

Refrain: With you, O God, is the well of life.

O God, the well of life,

make us bright with wisdom,

that we may be lightened with the knowledge of your glory

in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 40

Refrain: Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; ☩

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

2 He brought me out of the roaring pit,

out of the mire and clay; ☩

he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.

3 He has put a new song in my mouth,

a song of praise to our God; ☩

many shall see and fear

and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, ☩

who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

How great your designs for us! ☩

There is none that can be compared with you.

6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them ☩

they would be more than I am able to express. R

7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire ☩

but my ears you have opened;

8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; ☩

then said I: 'Lo, I come.

9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me

that I should do your will, O my God; □

I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'

10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; □

behold, I did not restrain my lips,

and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; □

I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth

from the great congregation. R

12 Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Lord; □

let your love and your faithfulness always preserve me,

13 For innumerable troubles have come about me;

my sins have overtaken me so that I cannot look up; □

they are more in number than the hairs of my head,

and my heart fails me.

14 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; □

O Lord, make haste to help me.

15 Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed

who seek after my life to destroy it; □

let them be driven back and put to shame

who wish me evil.

16 Let those who heap insults upon me □

be desolate because of their shame. R

17 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; □

let those who love your salvation say always,

'The Lord is great.'

18 Though I am poor and needy, □

the Lord cares for me.

19 You are my helper and my deliverer; □

O my God, make no delay.

Refrain: Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

Free us from our sins, O God,
and may our sacrifices be of praise
to the glory of your Son,
our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

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.

Deuteronomy 12.1-14

These are the statutes and ordinances that you must diligently observe in the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has given you to occupy all the days that you live on the earth.

You must demolish completely all the places where the nations whom you are about to dispossess served their gods, on the mountain heights, on the hills, and under every leafy tree. Break down their altars, smash their pillars, burn their sacred poles with fire, and hew down the idols of their gods, and thus blot out their name from their places. You shall not worship the Lord your God in such ways. But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes as his habitation to put his name there. You shall go there, bringing there your burnt-offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and your donations, your votive gifts, your freewill-offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and flocks. And you shall eat there in the presence of the Lord your God, you and your households together, rejoicing in all the undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you.

You shall not act as we are acting here today, all of us according to our own desires, for you have not yet come into the rest and the possession that the Lord your God is giving you. When you cross over the Jordan and live in the land that the Lord your God is allotting to you, and when he gives you rest from your enemies all around so that you live in safety, then you shall bring everything that I command you to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name: your burnt-offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and your donations, and all your choice votive gifts that you vow to the Lord. And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you together with your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levites who reside in your towns (since they have no allotment or inheritance with you).

Take care that you do not offer your burnt-offerings at any place you happen to see. But only at the place that the Lord will choose in one of your tribes—there you shall offer your burnt-offerings and there you shall do everything I command you.

Canticle

A Song of Faith, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 60 \(page 618\)](#) or [number 74 \(page 632\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All God raised Christ from the dead,
the Lamb without spot or stain. Alleluia.

1 Blessed be the God and Father ☩
of our Lord Jesus Christ!

2 By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope ☩
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

3 Into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, ☩
kept in heaven for you,

4 Who are being protected by the power of God through faith, ☩
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

5 You were ransomed from the futile ways of your ancestors ☩
not with perishable things like silver or gold

6 But with the precious blood of Christ ☩
like that of a lamb without spot or stain.

7 Through him you have confidence in God,
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, ☩
so that your faith and hope are set on God.

1 Peter 1.3-5, 18, 19, 21

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 God raised Christ from the dead,
the Lamb without spot or stain. Alleluia.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Ephesians 6.1-9

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honour your father and mother’—this is the first commandment with a promise: ‘so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’

And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, in singleness of heart, as you obey Christ; not only while being watched, and in order to please them, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. Render service with enthusiasm, as to the Lord and not to men and women, knowing that whatever good we do, we will receive the same again from the Lord, whether we are slaves or free.

And, masters, do the same to them. Stop threatening them, for you know that both of you have the same Master in heaven, and with him there is no partiality.

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

The Lord is my strength and my song:

he has become my salvation.

AllThe Lord is my strength and my song:

he has become my salvation.

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the Lord.

AllHe has become my salvation.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

AllThe Lord is my strength and my song:

he has become my salvation.

from Psalm 118

Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,
or [Great and Wonderful \(page 629\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

AllThe stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

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:

AllThe stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

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](#)

- ¶ The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord
- ¶ God's creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care
- ¶ Those in despair and darkness, that they may find the hope and light of Christ
- ¶ Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection
- ¶ Prisoners and captives

A form of prayer found [on page 382](#) 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 Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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)

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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 the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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