

## ¶ Evening Prayer on Thursday

**Thursday, 18 July 2024**

# **Elizabeth Ferard, first Deaconess of the Church of England , Founder of the Community of St Andrew, 1883 [Commemoration]**

## **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 Chosen One

1There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse, □

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, □

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

3The spirit of counsel and might, ☩  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

4He shall not judge by what his eyes see, ☩  
or decide by what his ears hear,

5But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, ☩  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

6The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, ☩  
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

7The calf, the lion and the fatling together, ☩  
with a little child to lead them.

8They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, ☩  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11.1,2,3b-4a,6,9

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.

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 18\*

Refrain: The Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

1 I love you, O Lord my strength. □

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

2 My God, my rock in whom I take refuge, □

my shield, the horn of my salvation and my stronghold.

3 I cried to the Lord in my anguish □

and I was saved from my enemies. R

4 The cords of death entwined me □

and the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

5 The cords of the Pit fastened about me □

and the snares of death entangled me.

6 In my distress I called upon the Lord □

and cried out to my God for help.

7 He heard my voice in his temple □

and my cry came to his ears. R

8 The earth trembled and quaked; □

the foundations of the mountains shook;

they reeled because he was angry.

9 Smoke rose from his nostrils

and a consuming fire went out of his mouth; □

burning coals blazed forth from him.

10 He parted the heavens and came down □

and thick darkness was under his feet.

11 He rode upon the cherubim and flew; □

he came flying on the wings of the wind.

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

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

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

15 He sent out his arrows and scattered them; □  
he hurled down lightnings and put them to flight.

16 The springs of the ocean were seen,  
and the foundations of the world uncovered □  
at your rebuke, O Lord,  
at the blast of the breath of your displeasure. R

17 He reached down from on high and took me; □  
he drew me out of the mighty waters.

18 He delivered me from my strong enemy, □  
from foes that were too mighty for me.

19 They came upon me in the day of my trouble; □  
but the Lord was my upholder.

20 He brought me out into a place of liberty; □  
he rescued me because he delighted in me. R

21 The Lord rewarded me after my righteous dealing; □  
according to the cleanness of my hands he recompensed me,

22 Because I had kept the ways of the Lord □  
and had not gone wickedly away from my God,

23 For I had an eye to all his laws, □  
and did not cast out his commandments from me.

24 I was also wholehearted before him □  
and kept myself from iniquity;

25 Therefore the Lord rewarded me  
after my righteous dealing, □

and according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight. R

26 With the faithful you show yourself faithful; □  
with the true you show yourself true;

27 With the pure you show yourself pure, □  
but with the crooked you show yourself perverse.

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

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

30 By your help I shall run at an enemy host; □  
with the help of my God I can leap over a wall. R

31 As 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.

32 For who is God but the Lord, □  
and who is the rock except our God?

33 It is God who girds me about with strength □  
and makes my way perfect.

34 He makes my feet like hinds' feet □  
so that I tread surely on the heights.

35 He teaches my hands to fight □  
and my arms to bend a bow of bronze. R

36 You have given me the shield of your salvation; □  
your right hand upholds me  
and your grace has made me great.

37 You enlarge my strides beneath me, □  
yet my feet do not slide.

38 I will pursue my enemies and overtake them, □  
nor turn again until I have destroyed them.

39 I will smite them down so they cannot rise; □  
they shall fall beneath my feet.

40 You have girded me with strength for the battle; □  
you will cast down my enemies under me;

41 You will make my foes turn their backs upon me □  
and I shall destroy them that hate me. R

42 They will cry out, but there shall be none to help them; □  
they will cry to the Lord, but he will not answer.

43 I shall beat them as small as the dust on the wind; □  
I will cast them out as the mire in the streets.

44 You will deliver me from the strife of the peoples; □  
you will make me the head of the nations.

45 A people I have not known shall serve me;  
as soon as they hear me, they shall obey me; □  
strangers will humble themselves before me.

46 The foreign peoples will lose heart □  
and come trembling out of their strongholds. R

47 The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock! □  
Praised be the God of my salvation,

48 Even the God who vindicates me □  
and subdues the peoples under me!

49 You that deliver me from my enemies,  
you will set me up above my foes; □  
from the violent you will deliver me;

50 Therefore will I give you thanks, O Lord, among the nations □  
and sing praises to your name,

51 To the one who gives great victory to his king □  
and shows faithful love to his anointed,  
to David and his seed for ever.

Refrain: The Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

From your royal throne, O God,  
you sent your living Word  
to pierce the gloom of oppression;  
so, in our souls' night,  
come with your saving help  
and penetrate our darkness with the  
rays of your glory  
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.

## **Ezekiel 20.1-20**

In the seventh year, in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, certain elders of Israel came to consult the Lord, and sat down before me. And the word of the Lord came to me: Mortal, speak to the elders of Israel, and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: Why are you coming? To consult me? As I live, says the Lord God, I will not be consulted by you. Will you judge them, mortal, will you judge them? Then let them know the abominations of their ancestors, and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: On the day when I chose Israel, I swore to the offspring of the house of Jacob—making myself known to them in the land of Egypt—I swore to them, saying, I am the Lord your God. On that day I swore to them that I would bring them out of the land of Egypt into a land that I had searched out for them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands. And I said to them, Cast away the detestable things your eyes feast on, every one of you, and do not defile yourselves with the idols of Egypt; I am the Lord your God. But they rebelled against me and would not listen to me; not one of them cast away the detestable things their eyes feasted on, nor did they forsake the idols of Egypt.

Then I thought I would pour out my wrath upon them and spend my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt. But I acted for the sake of my name, that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations among whom they lived, in whose sight I made myself known to them in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. So I led them out of the land of Egypt and brought them into the wilderness. I gave them my statutes and showed them my ordinances, by whose observance everyone shall live. Moreover, I gave them my sabbaths, as a sign between me and them, so that they might know that I the Lord sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness; they did not observe my statutes but rejected my ordinances, by whose observance everyone shall live; and my sabbaths they greatly profaned.

Then I thought I would pour out my wrath upon them in the wilderness, to make an end of them. But I acted for the sake of my name, so that it should not be profaned in the sight of the nations, in whose sight I had brought them out. Moreover, I swore to them in the wilderness that I would not bring them into the land that I had given them, a land flowing with milk and honey, the most glorious of all lands, because they rejected my ordinances and did not observe my statutes, and

profaned my sabbaths; for their heart went after their idols. Nevertheless, my eye spared them, and I did not destroy them or make an end of them in the wilderness.

I said to their children in the wilderness, Do not follow the statutes of your parents, nor observe their ordinances, nor defile yourselves with their idols. I the Lord am your God; follow my statutes, and be careful to observe my ordinances, and hallow my sabbaths that they may be a sign between me and you, so that you may know that I the Lord am your God.

## Canticle

Great and Wonderful, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 63 \(page 621\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,  
and share in the feast of your kingdom.

1 Great and wonderful are your deeds, □  
Lord God the Almighty.

2 Just and true are your ways, □  
O ruler of the nations.

3 Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord? □  
for you alone are holy.

4 All nations shall come and worship in your presence: □  
for your just dealings have been revealed.

Revelation 15.3, 4

All to the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb □  
be blessing and honour and glory and might,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

All nations shall come and worship you, O Christ,  
and share in the feast of your kingdom.

## Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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



## 2 Corinthians 13

This is the third time I am coming to you. 'Any charge must be sustained by the evidence of two or three witnesses.' I warned those who sinned previously and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again, I will not be lenient—since you desire proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful in you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we are weak in him, but in dealing with you we will live with him by the power of God.

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong—not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

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

Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

All Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.

All I have called you by name; you are mine.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All Fear not, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name; you are mine.

from Isaiah 43

### Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,  
or [A Song of Christ's Appearing \(page 621\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All You have filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

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.

Refrain:

All You have filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

## 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](#)

¶ Local government, community leaders

¶ All who provide local services

¶ Those who work with young or elderly people

¶ Schools, colleges and universities

¶ Emergency and rescue organizations

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

Lord of all power and might,

the author and giver of all good things:

graft in our hearts the love of your name,

increase in us true religion,

nourish us with all goodness,

and of your great mercy keep us in the same;

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

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)

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

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.

AllThanks be to God.

© [The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005](#)

Official Common Worship apps, books and eBooks are available from [Church House Publishing](#).

The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from *The New Revised Standard Version Anglicized Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Implemented by Simon Kershaw at [Crucix](#).

Implementation copyright © Simon Kershaw, 2002-2021.

[View other services](#)

[Copy to clipboard](#)

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/evening-prayer-contemporary-thursday-18-july-2024>