

☩ Morning Prayer on Saturday

Saturday, 10 August 2024

Laurence, Deacon at Rome, Martyr, 258 [Lesser Festival]

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

[The Acclamation of Christ at the Dawning of the Day \(page 108\)](#) may replace the Preparation as the start of Morning Prayer on any occasion.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

One of these prayers of thanksgiving (page 109),

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

You founded the earth in the beginning

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,

and in these last days you have spoken to us

in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us

let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,

your Spirit ever renew our lives

and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

(or)

Blessed are you, creator of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As your dawn renews the face of the earth

bringing light and life to all creation,

may we rejoice in this day you have made;

as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All Blessed be God for ever.

after Lancelot Andrewes (1626)

or a suitable hymn,

or A Song of God's Praise

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; □
my soul is athirst for you.

2 My flesh also faints for you, □
as in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

3 So would I gaze upon you in your holy place, □
that I might behold your power and your glory.

4 Your loving-kindness is better than life itself □
and so my lips shall praise you.

5 I will bless you as long as I live □
and lift up my hands in your name.

6 My soul shall be satisfied, as with marrow and fatness, □
and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips,

7 When I remember you upon my bed □
and meditate on you in the watches of the night.

8 For you have been my helper □
and under the shadow of your wings will I rejoice.

9 My soul clings to you; □
your right hand shall hold me fast.

Psalm 63.1-9

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

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 76

Refrain: The Lord has made fast his throne for judgement.

1 In Judah God is known; □
his name is great in Israel.

2 At Salem is his tabernacle, □
and his dwelling place in Zion.

3 There broke he the flashing arrows of the bow, □
the shield, the sword and the weapons of war. R

4 In the light of splendour you appeared, □
glorious from the eternal mountains.

5 The boastful were plundered; they have slept their sleep; □
none of the warriors can lift their hand.

6 At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, ☐
both horse and chariot fell stunned. R

7 Terrible are you in majesty: ☐
who can stand before your face when you are angry?

8 You caused your judgement to be heard from heaven; ☐
the earth trembled and was still,

9 When God arose to judgement, ☐
to save all the meek upon earth. R

10 You crushed the wrath of the peoples ☐
and bridled the wrathful remnant.

11 Make a vow to the Lord your God and keep it; ☐
let all who are round about him bring gifts
to him that is worthy to be feared.

12 He breaks down the spirit of princes ☐
and strikes terror in the kings of the earth.

Refrain: The Lord has made fast his throne for judgement.

Majestic and gracious God,
more awesome than the agents of war,
more powerful than the wrath of nations,
restrain the violence of the peoples
and draw the despised of the earth
into the joyful life of your kingdom,
where you live and reign for ever and ever.

Psalm 79

Refrain: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

1 O God, the heathen have come into your heritage; ☐
your holy temple have they defiled
and made Jerusalem a heap of stones.

2 The dead bodies of your servants they have given
to be food for the birds of the air, □
and the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the field.

3 Their blood have they shed like water
on every side of Jerusalem, □
and there was no one to bury them.

4 We have become the taunt of our neighbours, □
the scorn and derision of those that are round about us. R

5 Lord, how long will you be angry, for ever? □
How long will your jealous fury blaze like fire?

6 Pour out your wrath upon the nations that have not known you, □
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your name.

7 For they have devoured Jacob □
and laid waste his dwelling place. R

8 Remember not against us our former sins; □
let your compassion make haste to meet us,
for we are brought very low.

9 Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name; □
deliver us, and wipe away our sins for your name's sake.

10 Why should the heathen say, □
'Where is now their God?' R

11 Let vengeance for your servants' blood that is shed □
be known among the nations in our sight.

12 Let the sorrowful sighing of the prisoners come before you, □
and by your mighty arm
preserve those who are condemned to die.

13 May the taunts with which our neighbours taunted you, Lord, □
return sevenfold into their bosom.

14 But we that are your people and the sheep of your pasture
will give you thanks for ever, □
and tell of your praise from generation to generation.

Refrain: Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of your name.

When faith is scorned
and love grows cold,
then, God of hosts, rebuild your Church
on lives of thankfulness and patient prayer;
through Christ your eternal Son.

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.

2 Samuel 2.1-11

After the death of Saul and Jonathan David inquired of the Lord, 'Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?' The Lord said to him, 'Go up.' David said, 'To which shall I go up?' He said, 'To Hebron.' So David went up there, along with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. David brought up the men who were with him, every one with his household; and they settled in the towns of Hebron. Then the people of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah.

When they told David, 'It was the people of Jabesh-gilead who buried Saul', David sent messengers to the people of Jabesh-gilead, and said to them, 'May you be blessed by the Lord, because you showed this loyalty to Saul your lord, and buried him! Now may the Lord show steadfast love and faithfulness to you! And I too will reward you because you have done this thing. Therefore let your hands be strong, and be valiant; for Saul your lord is dead, and the house of Judah has anointed me king over them.'

But Abner son of Ner, commander of Saul's army, had taken Ishbaal son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim. He made him king over Gilead, the Ashurites, Jezreel, Ephraim, Benjamin, and over all Israel. Ishbaal, Saul's son, was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and he reigned for two years. But the house of Judah followed David. The time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

Canticle

A Song of Jerusalem our Mother, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 48 \(page 600\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

AllThus says our God, I will comfort you,
you shall see and your heart shall rejoice.

1'Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, □
all you who love her,' says the Lord.

2 'Rejoice with her in joy, □
all you who mourn over her,

3'That you may drink deeply with delight □
from her consoling breast.'

4For thus says our God, □
'You shall be nursed and carried on her arm.

5'As a mother comforts her children, □
so I will comfort you;

6'You shall see and your heart shall rejoice; □
you shall flourish like the grass of the fields.'

Isaiah 66.10, 11a, 12a, 12c, 13a, 14a, b

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.

AllThus says our God, I will comfort you,
you shall see and your heart shall rejoice.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Acts 5.27-end

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We

must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, respected by all the people, stood up and ordered the men to be put outside for a short time. Then he said to them, 'Fellow-Israelites, consider carefully what you propose to do to these men. For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him; but he was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and disappeared. After him Judas the Galilean rose up at the time of the census and got people to follow him; he also perished, and all who followed him were scattered. So in the present case, I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone; because if this plan or this undertaking is of human origin, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them—in that case you may even be found fighting against God!'

They were convinced by him, and when they had called in the apostles, they had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. As they left the council, they rejoiced that they were considered worthy to suffer dishonour for the sake of the name. And every day in the temple and at home they did not cease to teach and proclaim Jesus as the Messiah.

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

Your salvation is near to those who fear you;

that glory may dwell in our land.

All Your salvation is near to those who fear you;

that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

All That glory may dwell in our land.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All Your salvation is near to those who fear you;

that glory may dwell in our land.

from Psalm 85

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,

or the [Te Deum Laudamus \(A Song of the Church\) \(page 636\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, □
who has come to his people and set them free.

2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, □
born of the house of his servant David.

3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old □
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

4 To show mercy to our ancestors, □
and to remember his holy covenant.

5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: □
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

6 Free to worship him without fear, □
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, □
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

8 To give his people knowledge of salvation □
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

9 In the tender compassion of our God □
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, □
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

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 Blessed are those who are persecuted for the cause of right,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

- ¶ for the day and its tasks
- ¶ for the world and its needs
- ¶ for the Church and her life

Prayers may include the following concerns from the [cycle on pages 362–363](#)

- ¶ Our homes, families, friends and all whom we love
- ¶ Those whose time is spent caring for others
- ¶ Those who are close to death
- ¶ Those who have lost hope
- ¶ The worship of the Church

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 made Laurence a loving servant of your people
and a wise steward of the treasures of your Church:
fire us with his example to love as he loved
and to walk in the way that leads to eternal life;
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

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

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,

and keep us in eternal life.

AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.

AllThanks be to God.

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