

## ☩ Morning Prayer on Thursday

**Thursday, 5 September 2024**

### 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 Blessing

1 God be gracious to us and bless us ☩  
and make his face to shine upon us,

2 That your way may be known upon earth, ☩  
your saving power among all nations.

3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ☩  
let all the peoples praise you.

4 O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ☩  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.

5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; ☩  
let all the peoples praise you.

6 Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ☩  
and God, our own God, will bless us.

7 God will bless us, ☩  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Psalm 67

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 14

Refrain: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

1 The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'  
Corrupt are they, and abominable in their wickedness;  
there is no one that does good.

2 The Lord has looked down from heaven  
upon the children of earth,  
to see if there is anyone who is wise  
and seeks after God.

3 But every one has turned back;  
all alike have become corrupt:  
there is none that does good; no, not one. R

4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers,  
who eat up my people as if they ate bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?

5 There shall they be in great fear;  
for God is in the company of the righteous.

6 Though they would confound the counsel of the poor,  
yet the Lord shall be their refuge.

7 O that Israel's salvation would come out of Zion! □

When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

Refrain: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

God of heaven,

look with mercy on all who are consumed

by ignorance and greed,

and let the children of earth know

that you are God for ever.

## Psalm 15

Refrain: Through the greatness of your mercy,

I will come into your house.

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? □

Who may rest upon your holy hill?

2 Whoever leads an uncorrupt life □

and does the thing that is right;

3 Who speaks the truth from the heart □

and bears no deceit on the tongue;

4 Who does no evil to a friend □

and pours no scorn on a neighbour;

5 In whose sight the wicked are not esteemed, □

but who honours those who fear the Lord.

6 Whoever has sworn to a neighbour □

and never goes back on that word;

7 Who does not lend money in hope of gain, □

nor takes a bribe against the innocent;

8 Whoever does these things □

shall never fall.

Refrain: Through the greatness of your mercy,  
I will come into your house.

Lord, lead us to our heavenly home  
by single steps of self-restraint  
and deeds of righteousness;  
through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Psalm 16

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; □  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, □  
upon those who are noble in heart.

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, □  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,  
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; □  
in your hands alone is my fortune.

5 My share has fallen in a fair land; □  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage. R

6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, □  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

7 I have set the Lord always before me; □  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; □  
my flesh also shall rest secure.

9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, □  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

10 You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy ☐  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Give to us, Lord Christ,  
the fullness of grace,  
your presence and your very self,  
for you are our portion and our delight,  
now and for ever.

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.

## **1 Kings 4.29 - 5.12**

God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. He was wiser than anyone else, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, children of Mahol; his fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations. He composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish. People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon; they came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.

Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, 'You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the Lord put them under the soles of his feet. But now the Lord my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. So I intend to build a house for the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord said to my father David, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name." Therefore command that cedars from the Lebanon be cut for me. My servants will join your servants, and I will give you whatever wages you set for your servants; for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.'

When Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly, and said, 'Blessed be the Lord today, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people.' Hiram sent word to Solomon, 'I have heard the message that you have sent to me; I will fulfil all your needs in the matter of cedar and cypress timber. My servants shall bring it down to the sea from the Lebanon; I will make it into rafts to go by sea to the place you indicate. I will have them broken up there for you to take away.'

And you shall meet my needs by providing food for my household.' So Hiram supplied Solomon's every need for timber of cedar and cypress. Solomon in turn gave Hiram twenty thousand cors of wheat as food for his household, and twenty cors of fine oil. Solomon gave this to Hiram year by year. So the Lord gave Solomon wisdom, as he promised him. There was peace between Hiram and Solomon; and the two of them made a treaty.

## Canticle

A Song of the Covenant, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 44 \(page 596\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All have given you as a light to the nations,  
and I have called you in righteousness.

1 Thus says God, who created the heavens, ☩  
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

2 Who gives breath to the people upon it ☩  
and spirit to those who walk in it,

3 'I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness, ☩  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

4 'I have given you as a covenant to the people, ☩  
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

5 'To bring out the captives from the dungeon, ☩  
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

6 'I am the Lord, that is my name; ☩  
my glory I give to no other.'

Isaiah 42.5-8a

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 have given you as a light to the nations,  
and I have called you in righteousness.

## Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

## Acts 15.1-21

Certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

"After this I will return,

and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen;

from its ruins I will rebuild it,

and I will set it up,

so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—

even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago."

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

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 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 Cantic

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

or [Gloria in Excelsis \(A Song of God's Glory\) \(page 635\)](#) may be said

Refrain

All You promised, O God, to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us.

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 You promised, O God, to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us.

## 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](#)

¶ 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

Almighty God,

whose only Son has opened for us

a new and living way into your presence:

give us pure hearts and steadfast wills

to worship you in spirit and in truth;

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

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.  
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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