

¶ Evening Prayer on Wednesday

Wednesday, 18 September 2024

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 Descending

1I love you, O Lord my strength. □

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

2In my distress I called upon the Lord □

and cried out to my God for help.

3He heard my voice in his temple □

and my cry came to his ears.

4He parted the heavens and came down □
and thick darkness was under his feet.

5He rode upon the cherubim and flew; □
he came flying on the wings of the wind.

6He made darkness his covering round about him, □
dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.

7From the brightness of his presence, through the clouds □
burst hailstones and coals of fire.

8The Lord also thundered out of heaven; □
the Most High uttered his voice
with hailstones and coals of fire.

9For you will save a lowly people □
and bring down the high looks of the proud.

10You also shall light my candle; □
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

11As 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.

Psalms 18:1, 6, 7, 10-14, 28, 29, 31

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

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.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 59

Refrain: You, O God, are my strong tower.

1 Rescue me from my enemies, O my God; □
set me high above those that rise up against me.

2 Save me from the evildoers □
and from murderous foes deliver me.

3 For see how they lie in wait for my soul □
and the mighty stir up trouble against me.

4 Not for any fault or sin of mine, O Lord; □
for no offence, they run and prepare themselves for war.

5 Rouse yourself, come to my aid and see; □
for you are the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel.

6 Awake, and judge all the nations; □
show no mercy to the evil traitors. R

7 They return at nightfall and snarl like dogs □
and prowl about the city.

8 They pour out evil words with their mouths;
swords are on their lips; □
'For who', they say, 'can hear us?'

9 But you laugh at them, O Lord; □
you hold all the nations in derision.

10 For you, O my strength, will I watch; □
you, O God, are my strong tower.

11 My God in his steadfast love will come to me; □
he will let me behold the downfall of my enemies. R

12 Slay them not, lest my people forget; □
send them reeling by your might
and bring them down, O Lord our shield.

13 For the sins of their mouth, for the words of their lips, □
let them be taken in their pride.

14 For the cursing and falsehood they have uttered, □
consume them in wrath, consume them till they are no more.

15 And they shall know that God rules in Jacob, □
and to the ends of the earth. R

16 And still they return at nightfall and snarl like dogs □
and prowl about the city.

17 Though they forage for something to devour, □
and howl if they are not filled,

18 Yet will I sing of your strength □
and every morning praise your steadfast love;

19 For you have been my stronghold, □
my refuge in the day of my trouble.

20 To you, O my strength, will I sing; □
for you, O God, are my refuge,
my God of steadfast love.

Refrain: You, O God, are my strong tower.

Strong and merciful God,
stand with the oppressed
against the triumph of evil
and the complacency of your people,
and establish in Jesus Christ
your new order of generosity and joy,

for he is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Psalm 60

Refrain: Restore us again, O God our Saviour.

1 O God, you have cast us off and broken us; □
you have been angry; restore us to yourself again.

2 You have shaken the earth and torn it apart; □
heal its wounds, for it trembles.

3 You have made your people drink bitter things; □
we reel from the deadly wine you have given us.

4 You have made those who fear you to flee, □
to escape from the range of the bow.

5 That your beloved may be delivered, □
save us by your right hand and answer us. R

6 God has spoken in his holiness: □
'I will triumph and divide Shechem,
and share out the valley of Succoth.

7 'Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; □
Ephraim is my helmet and Judah my sceptre.

8 'Moab shall be my washpot;
over Edom will I cast my sandal; □
across Philistia will I shout in triumph.' R

9 Who will lead me into the strong city? □
Who will bring me into Edom?

10 Have you not cast us off, O God? □
Will you no longer go forth with our troops?

11 Grant us your help against the enemy, □
for earthly help is in vain.

12 Through God will we do great acts, □
for it is he that shall tread down our enemies.

Refrain: Restore us again, O God our Saviour.

Risen Christ,
you claim your own among the nations;
mend what is broken in us, loving Saviour;
do not forsake us when we fail,
but in your service grant us daring and love;
for your name's sake.

Psalm (67)

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.

In the face of Jesus Christ
your light and glory have blazed forth,
O God of all the nations;
with all your people,
may we make known your grace
and walk in the ways of peace;
for your name's sake.

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.

Wisdom 13.1-9

For all people who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature;

and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know the one who exists,

nor did they recognize the artisan while paying heed to his works;

but they supposed that either fire or wind or swift air,

or the circle of the stars, or turbulent water,

or the luminaries of heaven were the gods that rule the world.

If through delight in the beauty of these things people assumed them to be gods,

let them know how much better than these is their Lord,

for the author of beauty created them.

And if people were amazed at their power and working,

let them perceive from them

how much more powerful is the one who formed them.

For from the greatness and beauty of created things

comes a corresponding perception of their Creator.

Yet these people are little to be blamed,

for perhaps they go astray

while seeking God and desiring to find him.

For while they live among his works, they keep searching,

and they trust in what they see, because the things that are seen are beautiful.

Yet again, not even they are to be excused;

for if they had the power to know so much

that they could investigate the world,

how did they fail to find sooner the Lord of these things?

or [2 Chronicles 5](#)

Canticle

A Song of the Blessed, or another suitable canticle,
for example, [number 69 \(page 627\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Rejoice and be glad
for you are the light of the world,
and great is your reward in heaven.

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, □
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Blessed are those who mourn, □
for they shall be comforted.

3 Blessed are the meek, □
for they shall inherit the earth.

4 Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst after righteousness, □
for they shall be satisfied.

5 Blessed are the merciful, □
for they shall obtain mercy.

6 Blessed are the pure in heart, □
for they shall see God.

7 Blessed are the peacemakers, □
for they shall be called children of God.

8 Blessed are those who suffer persecution
for righteousness' sake, □
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3-10

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 Rejoice and be glad
for you are the light of the world,
and great is your reward in heaven.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Mark 13.1-13

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

'As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.'

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

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

All And afterwards receive me with glory.

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

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel

and afterwards receive me with glory.

from Psalm 73

Gospel Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,
or the Nunc dimittis ([The Song of Simeon](#)) (page 613) may be said

All Remember your promise of mercy,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

All Remember your promise of mercy,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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](#)

¶ The social services

¶ All who work in the criminal justice system

¶ Victims and perpetrators of crime

¶ The work of aid agencies throughout the world

¶ Those living in poverty or under oppression

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

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers

of your people who call upon you;

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 them;

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

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)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

AllOur 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.

All Thanks be to God.

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