

## ¶ Evening Prayer on Wednesday

**Wednesday, 2 October 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.

AllAmen.

## The Word of God

### Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

### Psalm 91

Refrain: Keep me as the apple of your eye.

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High □  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, □  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler □  
and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with his wings  
and you shall be safe under his feathers; □  
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler. R

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, □  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, □  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

7 Though a thousand fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, □  
yet it shall not come near you.

8 Your eyes have only to behold □  
to see the reward of the wicked. R

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge □  
and the Most High your stronghold,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, ☩  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ☩  
to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, ☩  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ☩  
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. R

14 Because they have set their love upon me,  
therefore will I deliver them; ☩  
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ☩  
I am with them in trouble,  
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them ☩  
and show them my salvation.

Refrain: Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
and, as you have bound us to yourself in love,  
leave us not who call upon your name,  
but grant us your salvation,  
made known in the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Psalm 93

Refrain: The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel; ☩  
the Lord has put on his glory  
and girded himself with strength.

2 He has made the whole world so sure □  
that it cannot be moved.

3 Your throne has been established from of old; □  
you are from everlasting. R

4 The floods have lifted up, O Lord,  
the floods have lifted up their voice; □  
the floods lift up their pounding waves.

5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters,  
mightier than the breakers of the sea, □  
the Lord on high is mightier.

6 Your testimonies are very sure; □  
holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

Refrain: The Lord shall reign for ever and ever.

Christ our King,  
you put on the apparel of our nature  
and raised us to your glory;  
reign from your royal throne  
above the chaos of this world,  
that all may see the victory you have won  
and trust in your salvation;  
for your glory'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.

## **1 Maccabees 3.42-end**

Now Judas and his brothers saw that misfortunes had increased and that the forces were encamped in their territory. They also learned what the king had commanded to be done to the people to cause their final destruction. But they said to one another, 'Let us restore the ruins of our people, and fight for our people and the sanctuary.' So the congregation assembled to be ready for battle, and to pray and ask for mercy and compassion.

Jerusalem was uninhabited like a wilderness;

not one of her children went in or out.

The sanctuary was trampled down,

and aliens held the citadel;

it was a lodging-place for the Gentiles.

Joy was taken from Jacob;

the flute and the harp ceased to play.

Then they gathered together and went to Mizpah, opposite Jerusalem, because Israel formerly had a place of prayer in Mizpah. They fasted that day, put on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on their heads, and tore their clothes. And they opened the book of the law to inquire into those matters about which the Gentiles consulted the images of their gods. They also brought the vestments of the priesthood and the first fruits and the tithes, and they stirred up the nazirites who had completed their days; and they cried aloud to Heaven, saying,

'What shall we do with these?

Where shall we take them?

Your sanctuary is trampled down and profaned,

and your priests mourn in humiliation.

Here the Gentiles are assembled against us to destroy us;

you know what they plot against us.

How will we be able to withstand them,

if you do not help us?'

Then they sounded the trumpets and gave a loud shout. After this Judas appointed leaders of the people, in charge of thousands and hundreds and fifties and tens. Those who were building houses, or were about to be married, or were planting a vineyard, or were faint-hearted, he told to go home again, in accordance with the law. Then the army marched out and encamped to the south of Emmaus.

And Judas said, 'Arm yourselves and be courageous. Be ready early in the morning to fight with these Gentiles who have assembled against us to destroy us and our sanctuary. It is better for us to die in battle than to see the misfortunes of our nation and of the sanctuary. But as his will in heaven may be, so shall he do.'

or [2 Chronicles 18.28 - end of 19](#)

## 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 15.33-41**

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

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 Canticle**

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

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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.

All Thanks be to God.

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