

☩ Morning Prayer on Thursday

Thursday, 31 October 2024

Martin Luther, Reformer, 1546 [Commemoration]

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 37*

Refrain: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord.

1 Fret not because of evildoers; □
be not jealous of those who do wrong.

2 For they shall soon wither like grass □
and like the green herb fade away.

3 Trust in the Lord and be doing good; □
dwell in the land and be nourished with truth.

4 Let your delight be in the Lord □
and he will give you your heart's desire.

5 Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in him, □
and he will bring it to pass.

6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light □
and your just dealing as the noonday. R

7 Be still before the Lord and wait for him; □
do not fret over those that prosper

as they follow their evil schemes.

8 Refrain from anger and abandon wrath; □
do not fret, lest you be moved to do evil.

9 For evildoers shall be cut off, □
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.

10 Yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; □
you will search for their place and find them gone.

11 But the lowly shall possess the land □
and shall delight in abundance of peace. R

12 The wicked plot against the righteous □
and gnash at them with their teeth.

13 The Lord shall laugh at the wicked, □
for he sees that their day is coming.

14 The wicked draw their sword and bend their bow
to strike down the poor and needy, □
to slaughter those who walk in truth.

15 Their sword shall go through their own heart □
and their bows shall be broken.

16 The little that the righteous have □
is better than great riches of the wicked.

17 For the arms of the wicked shall be broken, □
but the Lord upholds the righteous. R

18 The Lord knows the days of the godly, □
and their inheritance shall stand for ever.

19 They shall not be put to shame in the perilous time, □
and in days of famine they shall have enough.

20 But the wicked shall perish;
like the glory of the meadows
the enemies of the Lord shall vanish; □
they shall vanish like smoke.

21 The wicked borrow and do not repay, □

but the righteous are generous in giving.

22 For those who are blest by God shall possess the land, □

but those who are cursed by him shall be rooted out. R

23 When your steps are guided by the Lord □

and you delight in his way,

24 Though you stumble, you shall not fall headlong, □

for the Lord holds you fast by the hand.

25 I have been young and now am old, □

yet never have I seen the righteous forsaken,

or their children begging their bread.

26 All the day long they are generous in lending, □

and their children also shall be blest. R

27 Depart from evil and do good □

and you shall abide for ever.

28 For the Lord loves the thing that is right □

and will not forsake his faithful ones.

29 The unjust shall be destroyed for ever, □

and the offspring of the wicked shall be rooted out.

30 The righteous shall possess the land □

and dwell in it for ever. R

31 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, □

and their tongue speaks the thing that is right.

32 The law of their God is in their heart □

and their footsteps shall not slide.

33 The wicked spy on the righteous □

and seek occasion to slay them.

34 The Lord will not leave them in their hand, □

nor let them be condemned when they are judged. R

35 Wait upon the Lord and keep his way; □
he will raise you up to possess the land,
and when the wicked are uprooted, you shall see it.

36 I myself have seen the wicked in great power □
and flourishing like a tree in full leaf.

37 I went by and lo, they were gone; □
I sought them, but they could nowhere be found.

38 Keep innocence and heed the thing that is right, □
for that will bring you peace at the last. R

39 But the sinners shall perish together, □
and the posterity of the wicked shall be rooted out.

40 The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; □
he is their stronghold in the time of trouble.

41 The Lord shall stand by them and deliver them; □
he shall deliver them from the wicked and shall save them,
because they have put their trust in him.

Refrain: The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord.

Blessed and holy God,
ever merciful and forgiving,
may we turn from what is evil
and do what is good in your sight,
for you have saved us by the cross of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

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.

Judith 13

When evening came, his slaves quickly withdrew. Bagoas closed the tent from outside and shut out the attendants from his master's presence. They went to bed, for they all were weary because the banquet had lasted so long. But Judith was left alone in the tent, with Holofernes stretched out on his bed, for he was dead drunk.

Now Judith had told her maid to stand outside the bedchamber and to wait for her to come out, as she did on the other days; for she said she would be going out for her prayers. She had said the same thing to Bagoas. So everyone went out, and no one, either small or great, was left in the bedchamber. Then Judith, standing beside his bed, said in her heart, 'O Lord God of all might, look in this hour on the work of my hands for the exaltation of Jerusalem. Now indeed is the time to help your heritage and to carry out my design to destroy the enemies who have risen up against us.'

She went up to the bedpost near Holofernes' head, and took down his sword that hung there. She came close to his bed, took hold of the hair of his head, and said, 'Give me strength today, O Lord God of Israel!' Then she struck his neck twice with all her might, and cut off his head. Next she rolled his body off the bed and pulled down the canopy from the posts. Soon afterwards she went out and gave Holofernes' head to her maid, who placed it in her food bag.

Then the two of them went out together, as they were accustomed to do for prayer. They passed through the camp, circled around the valley, and went up the mountain to Bethulia, and came to its gates. From a distance Judith called out to the sentries at the gates, 'Open, open the gate! God, our God, is with us, still showing his power in Israel and his strength against our enemies, as he has done today!'

When the people of her town heard her voice, they hurried down to the town gate and summoned the elders of the town. They all ran together, both small and great, for it seemed unbelievable that she had returned. They opened the gate and welcomed them. Then they lit a fire to give light, and gathered around them. Then she said to them with a loud voice, 'Praise God, O praise him! Praise God, who has not withdrawn his mercy from the house of Israel, but has destroyed our enemies by my hand this very night!'

Then she pulled the head out of the bag and showed it to them, and said, 'See here, the head of Holofernes, the commander of the Assyrian army, and here is the canopy beneath which he lay in his drunken stupor. The Lord has struck him down by the hand of a woman. As the Lord lives, who has protected me on the way I went, I swear that it was my face that seduced him to his destruction, and that he committed no sin with me, to defile and shame me.'

All the people were greatly astonished. They bowed down and worshipped God, and said with one accord, 'Blessed are you our God, who have this day humiliated the enemies of your people.'

Then Uzziah said to her, 'O daughter, you are blessed by the Most High God above all other women on earth; and blessed be the Lord God, who created the heavens and the earth, who has guided you to cut off the head of the leader of our enemies. Your praise will never depart from the hearts of those who remember the power of God. May God grant this to be a perpetual honour to you, and may he reward you with blessings, because you risked your own life when our nation was brought low, and you averted our ruin, walking in the straight path before our God.' And all the people said, 'Amen. Amen.'

or [Leviticus 24.1-9](#)

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.

Titus 2

But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance.

Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behaviour, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited.

Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.

Tell slaves to be submissive to their masters and to give satisfaction in every respect; they are not to answer back, not to pilfer, but to show complete and perfect fidelity, so that in everything they may be an ornament to the doctrine of God our Saviour.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Declare these things; exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one look down on 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 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

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
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

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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