

## ☩ Morning Prayer

### Advent

**Friday, 13 December 2024**

**Lucy, Martyr at Syracuse, 304 [Lesser Festival]**

**Samuel Johnson, Moralist, 1784 [Commemoration]**

### Ember Day

#### Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

That we may behold your power and glory.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In your tender compassion

the dawn from on high is breaking upon us

to dispel the lingering shadows of night.

As we look for your coming among us this day,

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.

a suitable hymn, or A Song of the King's Glory

1The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, □  
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

2For he has founded it upon the seas □  
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

3'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, □  
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

4Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, □  
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,  
nor sworn an oath to a lie;

5They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, □  
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

6Such is the company of those who seek him, □  
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

7Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; □  
and the King of glory shall come in.

8'Who is the King of glory?' □  
'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

9Lift up your heads, O gates;  
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; □  
and the King of glory shall come in.

10'Who is this King of glory?' □  
'The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.'

Psalm 24

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.

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 85

Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord.

1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; □  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

2 You forgave the offence of your people □  
and covered all their sins.

3 You laid aside all your fury □  
and turned from your wrathful indignation. R

4 Restore us again, O God our Saviour, □  
and let your anger cease from us.

5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? □  
Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?

6 Will you not give us life again, □  
that your people may rejoice in you?

7 Show us your mercy, O Lord, □  
and grant us your salvation. R

8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, □  
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.

9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, □  
that his glory may dwell in our land. R

10 Mercy and truth are met together, □  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

11 Truth shall spring up from the earth □  
and righteousness look down from heaven.

12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, □  
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness shall go before him □  
and direct his steps in the way.

Refrain: Show us your mercy, O Lord.

Most holy God,  
when we come to you fearing that  
truth condemns us,  
show us that truth is one with love  
in your Word made flesh,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

## **Psalm 86**

Refrain: All nations you have made shall come and worship  
you, O Lord.

1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, □  
for I am poor and in misery.

2 Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; □  
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; □  
I call upon you all the day long.

4 Gladden the soul of your servant, □  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. R

5 For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, □  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer □  
and listen to the voice of my supplication.

7 In the day of my distress I will call upon you, □  
for you will answer me. R

8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, □  
nor any works like yours.

9 All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, □  
and shall glorify your name.

10 For you are great and do wonderful things; □  
you alone are God. R

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; □  
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, □  
and glorify your name for evermore;

13 For great is your steadfast love towards me, □  
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave. R

14 O God, the proud rise up against me  
and a ruthless horde seek after my life; □  
they have not set you before their eyes.

15 But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, □  
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; □  
give your strength to your servant  
and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a token of your favour,  
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; □  
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

Refrain: All nations you have made shall come and worship  
you, O Lord.

God of mercy,  
who in your great love  
drew your Son from the depths of the Pit,  
bring your people from death to life,  
that we may rejoice in your compassion  
and praise you 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.

## **Isaiah 48.12-end**

Listen to me, O Jacob,  
and Israel, whom I called:

I am He; I am the first,  
and I am the last.

My hand laid the foundation of the earth,  
and my right hand spread out the heavens;  
when I summon them,  
they stand at attention.

Assemble, all of you, and hear!

Who among them has declared these things?

The Lord loves him;

he shall perform his purpose on Babylon,  
and his arm shall be against the Chaldeans.

I, even I, have spoken and called him,

I have brought him, and he will prosper in his way.

Draw near to me, hear this!

From the beginning I have not spoken in secret,  
from the time it came to be I have been there.

And now the Lord God has sent me and his spirit.

Thus says the Lord,

your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:

I am the Lord your God,

who teaches you for your own good,  
who leads you in the way you should go.

O that you had paid attention to my commandments!

Then your prosperity would have been like a river,  
and your success like the waves of the sea;  
your offspring would have been like the sand,  
and your descendants like its grains;  
their name would never be cut off  
or destroyed from before me.

Go out from Babylon, flee from Chaldea,

declare this with a shout of joy, proclaim it,  
send it forth to the end of the earth;  
say, 'The Lord has redeemed his servant Jacob!'

They did not thirst when he led them through the deserts;  
he made water flow for them from the rock;  
he split open the rock and the water gushed out.

'There is no peace', says the Lord, 'for the wicked.'

## Canticle

A Song of the Wilderness, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 30 \(page 581\)](#) or [number 49 \(page 601\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Lift up your voice with strength,  
O herald of good tidings.

1The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, □  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

2They shall see the glory of the Lord, □  
the majesty of our God.

3Strengthen the weary hands, □  
and make firm the feeble knees.

4Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,  
your God is coming with judgement, □  
coming with judgement to save you.'

5Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, □  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

6Then shall the lame leap like a hart, □  
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

7For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, □  
and streams in the desert;

8The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, □  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.

9Joy and gladness shall be theirs, □  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35.1, 2b-4a, 4c-6, 10

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.

AllLift up your voice with strength,  
O herald of good tidings.

## **Scripture Reading**

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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



## 1 Thessalonians 4.1-12

Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from fornication; that each one of you knows how to control your own body in holiness and honour, not with lustful passion, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one wrongs or exploits a brother or sister in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, just as we have already told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness. Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we directed you, so that you may behave properly towards outsiders and be dependent on no one.

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

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,

All for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

All for the night is far spent.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness

and put on the armour of light,

All for the day is at hand.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ

and make no provision for the flesh,

All for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

from Romans 13

## Gospel Cantic

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said, or [A Song of Redemption \(page 620\)](#) 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10To 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

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.

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 364–365](#)

- ¶ The Church, that she may be ready for the coming of Christ
- ¶ The leaders of the Church
- ¶ The nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God
- ¶ Those who are working for justice in the world
- ¶ The broken, that they may find God's healing

A form of prayer found [on page 377](#) 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

God our redeemer,  
who gave light to the world that was in darkness  
by the healing power of the Saviour's cross:  
shed that light on us, we pray,  
that with your martyr Lucy  
we may, by the purity of our lives,  
reflect the light of Christ  
and, by the merits of his passion,  
come to the light of everlasting 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

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
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)

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
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

May the Lord, when he comes,

find us watching and waiting.

AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.

AllThanks be to God.

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