

¶ Evening Prayer

Epiphany Season

Saturday, 11 January 2025

Mary Slessor, Missionary in West Africa, 1915 [Commemoration]

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

AllO Lord, make haste to help us.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

All your glory is proclaimed in all the world.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

our light and our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

You gave your Christ as a light to the nations,

and through the anointing of the Spirit

you established us as a royal priesthood.

As you call us into your marvellous light,

may our lives bear witness to your truth

and our lips never cease to proclaim your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

[A Song of God's Splendour \(page 561\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!

Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;

with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,

kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the name that is dear;
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

J S B Monsell

(Tune: 13 10 13 10)

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 36

Refrain: With you, O God, is the well of life.

1 Sin whispers to the wicked, in the depths of their heart; □
there is no fear of God before their eyes.

2 They flatter themselves in their own eyes □
that their abominable sin will not be found out.

3 The words of their mouth are unrighteous and full of deceit; □
they have ceased to act wisely and to do good.

4 They think out mischief upon their beds
and have set themselves in no good way; □
nor do they abhor that which is evil. R

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens □
and your faithfulness to the clouds.

6 Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; □
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.

7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! □
All mortal flesh shall take refuge
under the shadow of your wings.

8 They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; □
they shall drink from the river of your delights.

9 For with you is the well of life □
and in your light shall we see light. R

10 O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you □
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.

11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, □
nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.

12 There are they fallen, all who work wickedness. □
They are cast down and shall not be able to stand.

Refrain: With you, O God, is the well of life.

O God, the well of life,
make us bright with wisdom,
that we may be lightened with the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 6

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.'

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!'

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' And he said, 'Go and say to this people:

"Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand."

Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,

so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.'

Then I said, 'How long, O Lord?' And he said:

'Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;
until the Lord sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

Even if a tenth part remains in it,

it will be burned again,

like a terebinth or an oak

whose stump remains standing

when it is felled.'

The holy seed is its stump.

Canticle

A Song of Praise, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 63 \(page 621\)](#) or [number 71 \(page 629\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All You created all things, O God,
and are worthy of our praise for ever.

1 You are worthy, our Lord and God, ☩
to receive glory and honour and power.

2 For you have created all things, ☩
and by your will they have their being.

3 You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, ☩
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation.

4 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God, ☩

and they will reign with you on earth.

Revelation 4.11; 5.9b, 10

All To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb ☩

be blessing and honour and glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

All You created all things, O God,

and are worthy of our praise for ever.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Titus 2.11-14; 3.4-7

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. But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

Arise, shine, for your light has come;

the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

All Arise, shine, for your light has come;

the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

God's salvation has been openly shown to all people.

All The glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

All Arise, shine, for your light has come;

the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

from Isaiah 60

Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,
or [A Song of Christ's Appearing \(page 621\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

All Behold, my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
the anointed one on whom my Spirit rests.

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.

Refrain:

All Behold, my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
the anointed one on whom my Spirit rests.

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 364–365](#)

¶ The unity of the Church

¶ The peace of the world

¶ The healing of the sick

¶ The revelation of Christ to those from whom his glory is hidden

¶ All who travel

A form of prayer found [on page 379](#) 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

Eternal Father,

who at the baptism of Jesus

revealed him to be your Son,

anointing him with the Holy Spirit:

grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,

that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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

Believing the promises of God,
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)

Believing the promises of God,
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 Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit.
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

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