

¶ Evening Prayer

Epiphany Season

Wednesday, 15 January 2025

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O 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.

AllAmen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 47

Refrain: O sing praises to God, sing praises.

1 Clap your hands together, all you peoples; □
O sing to God with shouts of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; □
he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdued the peoples under us □
and the nations under our feet.

4 He has chosen our heritage for us, □
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves. R

5 God has gone up with a merry noise, □
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

6 O sing praises to God, sing praises; □
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth; □
sing praises with all your skill. R

8 God reigns over the nations; □
God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the peoples are gathered together □
with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 For the powers of the earth belong to God □
and he is very highly exalted.

Refrain: O sing praises to God, sing praises.

As Christ was raised by your glory, O Father,
so may we be raised to new life

and rejoice to be called your children,
both now and for ever.

Psalm 48

Refrain: We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God.

1 Great is the Lord and highly to be praised, □
in the city of our God.

2 His holy mountain is fair and lifted high, □
the joy of all the earth.

3 On Mount Zion, the divine dwelling place, □
stands the city of the great king.

4 In her palaces God has shown himself □
to be a sure refuge. R

5 For behold, the kings of the earth assembled □
and swept forward together.

6 They saw, and were dumbfounded; □
dismayed, they fled in terror.

7 Trembling seized them there;
they writhed like a woman in labour, □
as when the east wind shatters the ships of Tarshish.

8 As we had heard, so have we seen
in the city of the Lord of hosts, the city of our God: □
God has established her for ever. R

9 We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God, □
in the midst of your temple.

10 As with your name, O God,
so your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; □
your right hand is full of justice.

11 Let Mount Zion rejoice and the daughters of Judah be glad, □
because of your judgements, O Lord.

12 Walk about Zion and go round about her;
count all her towers; □
consider well her bulwarks; pass through her citadels,

13 That you may tell those who come after
that such is our God for ever and ever. □
It is he that shall be our guide for evermore.

Refrain: We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God.

Father of lights,
raise us with Christ to your eternal city,
that, with kings and nations,
we may wait in the midst of your temple
and see your glory for ever and 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.

Genesis 2.4-end

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground—then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches. The name of the first is Pishon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold; and the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is Gihon; it is the one that flows around the whole land of Cush. The name of the third river is Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

this one shall be called Woman,

for out of Man this one was taken.'

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

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.

Matthew 21.33-end

'Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord's doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes"?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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 Cantic

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.
AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Believing the promises of God,
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)

Believing the promises of God,
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

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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