

¶ Evening Prayer

Epiphany Season

Friday, 24 January 2025

Francis de Sales, Bishop of Geneva, Teacher of the Faith, 1622 [Lesser Festival]

Seventh Day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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.

AllAmen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 73

Refrain: In the Lord God have I made my refuge.

1 Truly, God is loving to Israel, □
to those who are pure in heart.

2 Nevertheless, my feet were almost gone; □
my steps had well-nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious of the proud; □
I saw the wicked in such prosperity;

4 For they suffer no pains □
and their bodies are sleek and sound;

5 They come to no misfortune like other folk; □
nor are they plagued as others are;

6 Therefore pride is their necklace □
and violence wraps them like a cloak.

7 Their iniquity comes from within; □
the conceits of their hearts overflow. R

8 They scoff, and speak only of evil; □
they talk of oppression from on high.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, □
and their tongue ranges round the earth;

10 And so the people turn to them □
and find in them no fault.

11 They say, 'How should God know? □
Is there knowledge in the Most High?'

12 Behold, these are the wicked; □
ever at ease, they increase their wealth.

13 Is it in vain that I cleansed my heart □
and washed my hands in innocence?

14 All day long have I been stricken □
and chastened every morning.

15 If I had said, 'I will speak as they do,' □
I should have betrayed the generation of your children. R

16 Then thought I to understand this, □
but it was too hard for me,

17 Until I entered the sanctuary of God □
and understood the end of the wicked:

18 How you set them in slippery places; □
you cast them down to destruction.

19 How suddenly do they come to destruction, □
perish and come to a fearful end!

20 As with a dream when one awakes, □
so, Lord, when you arise you will despise their image.

21 When my heart became embittered □
and I was pierced to the quick,

22 I was but foolish and ignorant; □
I was like a brute beast in your presence. R

23 Yet I am always with you; □
you hold me by my right hand.

24 You will guide me with your counsel □
and afterwards receive me with glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but you? □
And there is nothing upon earth that I desire
in comparison with you.

26 Though my flesh and my heart fail me, □

God is the strength of my heart and my portion for ever.

27 Truly, those who forsake you will perish; □

you will put to silence the faithless who betray you.

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; □

in the Lord God have I made my refuge,

that I may tell of all your works.

Refrain: In the Lord God have I made my refuge.

Holy God,

may we find wisdom in your presence

and set our hope not on uncertain riches

but on the love that holds us to the end;

in 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.

Genesis 9.8-19

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

The sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was peopled.

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 25.14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

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 Those who keep and teach the commandments
will be considered great in heaven.

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 Those who keep and teach the commandments
will be considered great in heaven.

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

Almighty God,

who caused the light of the gospel

to shine throughout the world

through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul:

grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion

may follow him in bearing witness to your truth;

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.

AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord.

AllThanks be to God.

© [The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000–2005](#)

Official Common Worship apps, books and eBooks are available from [Church House Publishing](#).

The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from *The New Revised Standard Version Anglicized Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Implemented by Simon Kershaw at [Crucix](#).

Implementation copyright © Simon Kershaw, 2002–2021.

[View other services](#)

[Copy to clipboard](#)

Source URL: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/evening-prayer-contemporary-friday-24-january-2025>