

☩ Morning Prayer on Wednesday

Wednesday, 5 February 2025

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 Glorious Name

1 O Lord our governor, ☩

how glorious is your name in all the world!

2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised ☩

out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes, ☩

that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ☩

the moon and the stars that you have ordained,

5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them; ☩

mere human beings, that you should seek them out?

6 You have made them little lower than the angels ☩

and crown them with glory and honour.

7 You have given them dominion over the works of your hands ☩

and put all things under their feet,

8 All sheep and oxen, ☩

even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea ☩

and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

10 O Lord our governor, ☩

how glorious is your name in all the world!

Psalm 8

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.

AllAmen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 119.1-32

Refrain: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.

1 Blessed are those whose way is pure, □
who walk in the law of the Lord.

2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies □
and seek him with their whole heart,

3 Those who do no wickedness, □
but walk in his ways.

4 You, O Lord, have charged □
that we should diligently keep your commandments. R

5 O that my ways were made so direct □

that I might keep your statutes.

6 Then should I not be put to shame, □

because I have regard for all your commandments.

7 I will thank you with an unfeigned heart, □

when I have learned your righteous judgements.

8 I will keep your statutes; □

O forsake me not utterly. R

9 How shall young people cleanse their way □

to keep themselves according to your word?

10 With my whole heart have I sought you; □

O let me not go astray from your commandments.

11 Your words have I hidden within my heart, □

that I should not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord; □

O teach me your statutes. R

13 With my lips have I been telling □

of all the judgements of your mouth.

14 I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies □

than in all manner of riches.

15 I will meditate on your commandments □

and contemplate your ways.

16 My delight shall be in your statutes □

and I will not forget your word. R

17 O do good to your servant that I may live, □

and so shall I keep your word.

18 Open my eyes, that I may see □

the wonders of your law.

19 I am a stranger upon earth; □

hide not your commandments from me.

20 My soul is consumed at all times □
with fervent longing for your judgements. R

21 You have rebuked the arrogant; □
cursed are those who stray from your commandments.

22 Turn from me shame and rebuke, □
for I have kept your testimonies.

23 Rulers also sit and speak against me, □
but your servant meditates on your statutes.

24 For your testimonies are my delight; □
they are my faithful counsellors. R

25 My soul cleaves to the dust; □
O give me life according to your word.

26 I have acknowledged my ways and you have answered me; □
O teach me your statutes.

27 Make me understand the way of your commandments, □
and so shall I meditate on your wondrous works.

28 My soul melts away in tears of sorrow; □
raise me up according to your word. R

29 Take from me the way of falsehood; □
be gracious to me through your law.

30 I have chosen the way of truth □
and your judgements have I laid before me.

31 I hold fast to your testimonies; □
O Lord, let me not be put to shame.

32 I will run the way of your commandments, □
when you have set my heart at liberty.

Refrain: Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes.

Faithful God,
let your word be the treasure of our hearts,
that we may delight in your truth

and walk in the glorious liberty of your Son 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.

Susannah 1-27

There was a man living in Babylon whose name was Joakim. He married the daughter of Hilkiah, named Susanna, a very beautiful woman and one who feared the Lord. Her parents were righteous, and had trained their daughter according to the law of Moses. Joakim was very rich, and had a fine garden adjoining his house; the Jews used to come to him because he was the most honoured of them all.

That year two elders from the people were appointed as judges. Concerning them the Lord had said: 'Wickedness came forth from Babylon, from elders who were judges, who were supposed to govern the people.' These men were frequently at Joakim's house, and all who had a case to be tried came to them there.

When the people left at noon, Susanna would go into her husband's garden to walk. Every day the two elders used to see her, going in and walking about, and they began to lust for her. They suppressed their consciences and turned away their eyes from looking to Heaven or remembering their duty to administer justice. Both were overwhelmed with passion for her, but they did not tell each other of their distress, for they were ashamed to disclose their lustful desire to seduce her. Day after day they watched eagerly to see her.

One day they said to each other, 'Let us go home, for it is time for lunch.' So they both left and parted from each other. But turning back, they met again; and when each pressed the other for the reason, they confessed their lust. Then together they arranged for a time when they could find her alone.

Once, while they were watching for an opportune day, she went in as before with only two maids, and wished to bathe in the garden, for it was a hot day. No one was there except the two elders, who had hidden themselves and were watching her. She said to her maids, 'Bring me olive oil and ointments, and shut the garden doors so that I can bathe.' They did as she told them: they shut the doors of the garden and went out by the side doors to bring what they had been commanded; they did not see the elders, because they were hiding.

When the maids had gone out, the two elders got up and ran to her. They said, 'Look, the garden doors are shut, and no one can see us. We are burning with desire for you; so give your consent, and lie with us. If you refuse, we will testify against you that a young man was with you, and this was why you sent your maids away.'

Susanna groaned and said, 'I am completely trapped. For if I do this, it will mean death for me; if I do not, I cannot escape your hands. I choose not to do it; I will fall into your hands, rather than sin in the sight of the Lord.'

Then Susanna cried out with a loud voice, and the two elders shouted against her. And one of them ran and opened the garden doors. When the people in the house heard the shouting in the garden, they rushed in at the side door to see what had happened to her. And when the elders told their story, the servants felt very much ashamed, for nothing like this had ever been said about Susanna.

or [Malachi 2.17 - 3.12](#)

Canticle

A Song of the Word of the Lord, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 35 \(page 586\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.

1 Seek the Lord while he may be found, □
call upon him while he is near;

2 Let the wicked abandon their ways, □
and the unrighteous their thoughts;

3 Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; □
to our God, who will richly pardon.

4 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, □
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.

5 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, □
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

6 'As the rain and the snow come down from above, □
and return not again but water the earth,

7 'Bringing forth life and giving growth, □
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

8 'So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; □
it will not return to me fruitless,

9 'But it will accomplish that which I purpose, □
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

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 Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,
to our God, who will richly pardon.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

John 13.21-30

After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, 'Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me.' The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he was speaking. One of his disciples—the one whom Jesus loved—was reclining next to him; Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So while reclining next to Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.' So when he had dipped the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas son of Simon Iscariot. After he received the piece of bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, 'Do quickly what you are going to do.' Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the common purse, Jesus was telling him, 'Buy what we need for the festival'; or, that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the piece of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

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

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

All And afterwards receive me with glory.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

from Psalm 73

Gospel Canticle

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

Refrain:

All You show mercy to our ancestors,
and remember your holy covenant.

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 show mercy to our ancestors,
and remember your holy covenant.

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](#)

- ¶ The social services
- ¶ All who work in the criminal justice system
- ¶ Victims and perpetrators of crime
- ¶ The work of aid agencies throughout the world
- ¶ Those living in poverty or under oppression

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

Almighty God,
by whose grace alone we are accepted

and called to your service:
strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
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

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)

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

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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