

☩ Morning Prayer on Friday

Friday, 7 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 the Venite – A Song of Triumph

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; □

let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving □

and be glad in him with psalms.

3 For the Lord is a great God □

and a great king above all gods.

4 In his hand are the depths of the earth □

and the heights of the mountains are his also.

5 The sea is his, for he made it, □

and his hands have moulded the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down □

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

7 For he is our God; □

we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

The canticle may end here.

8 O that today you would listen to his voice: □

‘Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,

on that day at Massah in the wilderness,

9 ‘When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, □

though they had seen my works.

10 ‘Forty years long I detested that generation and said, □

‘This people are wayward in their hearts;

they do not know my ways.”

11‘So I swore in my wrath, □

“They shall not enter into my rest.”

Psalm 95

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 17

Refrain: Deliver me, O Lord, by your hand.

1 Hear my just cause, O Lord; consider my complaint; □

listen to my prayer, which comes not from lying lips.

2 Let my vindication come forth from your presence; □

let your eyes behold what is right.

3 Weigh my heart, examine me by night, □
refine me, and you will find no impurity in me. R

4 My mouth does not trespass for earthly rewards; □
I have heeded the words of your lips.

5 My footsteps hold fast in the ways of your commandments; □
my feet have not stumbled in your paths. R

6 I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; □
incline your ear to me, and listen to my words.

7 Show me your marvellous loving-kindness, □
O Saviour of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise up against them.

8 Keep me as the apple of your eye; □
hide me under the shadow of your wings,

9 From the wicked who assault me, □
from my enemies who surround me to take away my life. R

10 They have closed their heart to pity □
and their mouth speaks proud things.

11 They press me hard, they surround me on every side, □
watching how they may cast me to the ground,

12 Like a lion that is greedy for its prey, □
like a young lion lurking in secret places. R

13 Arise, Lord; confront them and cast them down; □
deliver me from the wicked by your sword.

14 Deliver me, O Lord, by your hand □
from those whose portion in life is unending,

15 Whose bellies you fill with your treasure, □
who are well supplied with children
and leave their wealth to their little ones.

16 As for me, I shall see your face in righteousness; □
when I awake and behold your likeness, I shall be satisfied.

Refrain: Deliver me, O Lord, by your hand.

Generous Lord,
deliver us from all envious thoughts,
and when we are tempted by the desire for wealth,
let us see your face;
for your abundance is enough to clothe our lack;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalm 19

Refrain: The commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.

1 The heavens are telling the glory of God ☐
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

2 One day pours out its song to another ☐
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.

3 They have neither speech nor language ☐
and their voices are not heard,

4 Yet their sound has gone out into all lands ☐
and their words to the ends of the world.

5 In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun, ☐
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.

6 It goes forth from the end of the heavens
and runs to the very end again, ☐
and there is nothing hidden from its heat. R

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; ☐
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.

8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart; ☐
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; □
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold, □
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb.

11 By them also is your servant taught □
and in keeping them there is great reward. R

12 Who can tell how often they offend? □
O cleanse me from my secret faults!

13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins
lest they get dominion over me; □
so shall I be undefiled,
and innocent of great offence.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, □
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

Refrain: The commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.

Christ, the sun of righteousness,
rise in our hearts this day,
enfold us in the brightness of your love
and bear us at the last to heaven's horizon;
for your love's sake.

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.

Bel and the Dragon

When King Astyages was laid to rest with his ancestors, Cyrus the Persian succeeded to his kingdom. Daniel was a companion of the king, and was the most honoured of all his friends.

Now the Babylonians had an idol called Bel, and every day they provided for it twelve bushels of choice flour and forty sheep and six measures of wine. The king revered it and went every day to worship it. But Daniel worshipped his own God.

So the king said to him, 'Why do you not worship Bel?' He answered, 'Because I do not revere idols made with hands, but the living God, who created heaven and earth and has dominion over all living creatures.'

The king said to him, 'Do you not think that Bel is a living god? Do you not see how much he eats and drinks every day?' And Daniel laughed, and said, 'Do not be deceived, O king, for this thing is only clay inside and bronze outside, and it never ate or drank anything.'

Then the king was angry and called the priests of Bel and said to them, 'If you do not tell me who is eating these provisions, you shall die. But if you prove that Bel is eating them, Daniel shall die, because he has spoken blasphemy against Bel.' Daniel said to the king, 'Let it be done as you have said.'

Now there were seventy priests of Bel, besides their wives and children. So the king went with Daniel into the temple of Bel. The priests of Bel said, 'See, we are now going outside; you yourself, O king, set out the food and prepare the wine, and shut the door and seal it with your signet. When you return in the morning, if you do not find that Bel has eaten it all, we will die; otherwise Daniel will, who is telling lies about us.' They were unconcerned, for beneath the table they had made a hidden entrance, through which they used to go in regularly and consume the provisions. After they had gone out, the king set out the food for Bel. Then Daniel ordered his servants to bring ashes, and they scattered them throughout the whole temple in the presence of the king alone. Then they went out, shut the door and sealed it with the king's signet, and departed. During the night the priests came as usual, with their wives and children, and they ate and drank everything.

Early in the morning the king rose and came, and Daniel with him. The king said, 'Are the seals unbroken, Daniel?' He answered, 'They are unbroken, O king.' As soon as the doors were opened, the king looked at the table, and shouted in a loud voice, 'You are great, O Bel, and in you there is no deceit at all!'

But Daniel laughed and restrained the king from going in. 'Look at the floor', he said, 'and notice whose footprints these are.' The king said, 'I see the footprints of men and women and children.'

Then the king was enraged, and he arrested the priests and their wives and children. They showed him the secret doors through which they used to enter to consume what was on the table. Therefore the king put them to death, and gave Bel over to Daniel, who destroyed it and its temple.

Now in that place there was a great dragon, which the Babylonians revered. The king said to Daniel, 'You cannot deny that this is a living god; so worship him.'

Daniel said, 'I worship the Lord my God, for he is the living God. But give me permission, O king, and I will kill the dragon without sword or club.' The king said, 'I give you permission.'

Then Daniel took pitch, fat, and hair, and boiled them together and made cakes, which he fed to the dragon. The dragon ate them, and burst open. Then Daniel said, 'See what you have been worshipping!'

When the Babylonians heard about it, they were very indignant and conspired against the king, saying, 'The king has become a Jew; he has destroyed Bel, and killed the dragon, and slaughtered the priests.' Going to the king, they said, 'Hand Daniel over to us, or else we will kill you and your household.' The king saw that they were pressing him hard, and under compulsion he handed Daniel over to them.

They threw Daniel into the lions' den, and he was there for six days. There were seven lions in the den, and every day they had been given two human bodies and two sheep; but now they were given nothing, so that they would devour Daniel.

Now the prophet Habakkuk was in Judea; he had made a stew and had broken bread into a bowl, and was going into the field to take it to the reapers. But the angel of the Lord said to Habakkuk, 'Take the food that you have to Babylon, to Daniel, in the lions' den.' Habakkuk said, 'Sir, I have never seen Babylon, and I know nothing about the den.' Then the angel of the Lord took him by the crown of his head and carried him by his hair; with the speed of the wind he set him down in Babylon, right over the den.

Then Habakkuk shouted, 'Daniel, Daniel! Take the food that God has sent you.' Daniel said, 'You have remembered me, O God, and have not forsaken those who love you.' So Daniel got up and ate. And the angel of God immediately returned Habakkuk to his own place.

On the seventh day the king came to mourn for Daniel. When he came to the den he looked in, and there sat Daniel! The king shouted with a loud voice, 'You are great, O Lord, the God of Daniel, and there is no other besides you!' Then he pulled Daniel out, and threw into the den those who had attempted his destruction, and they were instantly eaten before his eyes.

or [Nahum 1](#)

Canticle

A Song of Humility, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 33 \(page 584\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Raise us up, O God,
that we may live in your presence.

1 Come, let us return to the Lord ☩
who has torn us and will heal us.

2 God has stricken us ☩
and will bind up our wounds.

3 After two days, he will revive us, ☩
and on the third day will raise us up,
that we may live in his presence.

4 Let us strive to know the Lord; ☩
his appearing is as sure as the sunrise.

5He will come to us like the showers, □
like the spring rains that water the earth.

6'O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? □
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?

7>Your love for me is like the morning mist, □
like the dew that goes early away.

8'Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, □
and my judgement goes forth as the light.

9'For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, □
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.'

Hosea 6.1-6

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.

AllRaise us up, O God,
that we may live in your presence.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

John 14.1-14

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? ^{_____}The words
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that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

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

Forsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

AllForsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

Make haste to help me,

O Lord of my salvation.

AllBe not far from me, O my God.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

AllForsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

from Psalm 38

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,

or [A Song of Praise \(page 627\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

AllGive your people knowledge of salvation, O God,

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

1Blessed 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:

AllGive your people knowledge of salvation, O God,
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

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 King, members of parliament and the armed forces

¶ Peace and justice in the world

¶ Those who work for reconciliation

¶ All whose lives are devastated by war and civil strife

¶ Prisoners, refugees and homeless people

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.

AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

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)

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.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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