

¶ Evening Prayer

Lent

Saturday, 15 March 2025

Ember Day

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

All according to your judgement give us life.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts

to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God

in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,

that freed from the misery of sin and shame

we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

[A Song of Entreaty \(page 568\)](#), the following or another suitable hymn

Lord Jesus, think on me,

and purge away my sin;

from earthborn passions set me free,

and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me
with many a care opprest;
let me thy loving servant be,
and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
and share thy joy at last.

George the Sinner, tr: A W Chatfield

(Tune: SM)

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 4

Refrain: In peace I will lie down and sleep.

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; □

you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; □

how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; □

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Stand in awe, and sin not; □

commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. R

5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness □

and put your trust in the Lord.

6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' □

Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, □

more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, □

for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Refrain: In peace I will lie down and sleep.

Give us today, O God,

a glad heart and a clear conscience,

that when we come to this day's end

we may rest in peace with Christ our Lord.

Psalm 16

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; □

I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,

all my good depends on you.'

2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, □
upon those who are noble in heart.

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, □
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; □
in your hands alone is my fortune.

5 My share has fallen in a fair land; □
indeed, I have a goodly heritage. R

6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, □
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.

7 I have set the Lord always before me; □
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; □
my flesh also shall rest secure.

9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, □
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy □
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Refrain: The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

Give to us, Lord Christ,
the fullness of grace,
your presence and your very self,
for you are our portion and our delight,
now and for 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 43.1-15

Now the famine was severe in the land. And when they had eaten up the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, 'Go again, buy us a little more food.' But Judah said to him, 'The man solemnly warned us, saying, "You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you." If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food; but if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, "You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you."' Israel said, 'Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?' They replied, 'The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, "Is your father still alive? Have you another brother?" What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, "Bring your brother down"?' Then Judah said to his father Israel, 'Send the boy with me, and let us be on our way, so that we may live and not die—you and we and also our little ones. I myself will be surety for him; you can hold me accountable for him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame for ever. If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice.'

Then their father Israel said to them, 'If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry them down as a present to the man—a little balm and a little honey, gum, resin, pistachio nuts, and almonds. Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the top of your sacks; perhaps it was an oversight. Take your brother also, and be on your way again to the man; may God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, so that he may send back your other brother and Benjamin. As for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved.' So the men took the present, and they took double the money with them, as well as Benjamin. Then they went on their way down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

Canticle

A Song of Christ the Servant, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 61 \(page 619\)](#) or [number 67 \(page 625\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

All Christ committed no sin,
no guile was found on his lips.

1 Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, □
that you should follow in his steps.

2 He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips, □
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.

3 When he suffered, he did not threaten, □
but he trusted himself to God who judges justly.

4 Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, □
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

5By his wounds, you have been healed,
for you were straying like sheep, □
but have now returned
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 Peter 2.21b-25

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.

AllChrist committed no sin,
no guile was found on his lips.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

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

Galatians 6

My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbour's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

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 Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,

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

Refrain:

AllCome, let us return to the Lord,

for our God will richly pardon.

1My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; □

he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2From this day all generations will call me blessed; □

the Almighty has done great things for me

and holy is his name.

3He has mercy on those who fear him, □

from generation to generation.

4He has shown strength with his arm □

and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5Casting down the mighty from their thrones □
and lifting up the lowly.

6He has filled the hungry with good things □
and sent the rich away empty.

7He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, □
to remember his promise of mercy,

8The promise made to our ancestors, □
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

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:

AllCome, let us return to the Lord,
for our God will richly pardon.

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](#)

¶ Those preparing for baptism and confirmation

¶ Those serving through leadership

¶ Those looking for forgiveness

¶ Those misled by the false gods of this present age

¶ All who are hungry

A form of prayer found [on page 380](#) may be used.

The Litany [on pages 400-403](#) may be said instead of the Prayers.

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,

you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,

that they may return to the way of righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted

into the fellowship of Christ's religion,

that they may reject those things

that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

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

Trusting in the compassion 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)

Trusting in the compassion 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 God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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