Extended Prefaces

From the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,

he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,

we now watch for the day

when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels

and with all the company of heaven to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you and saying:
From 17 December until Christmas Eve

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,

whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald

and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy

as we prepare to celebrate his birth,

so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,

our hearts filled with wonder and praise.
And so, with angels and arch-angels,

and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your glory,

and join in their un-ending hymn of praise:

From Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany

All glory and honour be yours always and ev’rywhere,

mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race hum-bled him-self,

was born of the Virgin Mary

by the power of your Spirit, and lived as one of us.  

continued
In this mystery of the Word made flesh

you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,

to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In him we see our God made visible

and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

From the Epiphany until the Eve of the Presentation

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,

mighty Creator, ever-living God,

through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi

the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism Jesus was revealed as the Christ,

the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine

the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name

and sing our joyful hymn of praise:
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

It is indeed right and good,

always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise

through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the temple in substance of our flesh

to come near to us in judgment.

He searches the hearts of all your people

and brings to light the image of your splendor.

Your servant Simeon

acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations

while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.
Des-tined for the falling and rising of many,

he was lifted high up-on the cross

and a sword of sorrow pierced his mo-ther's heart

when by his sac-ri-fice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glo-ri-fy your name

that we, too, have seen your sal-va-tion

and join with angels and archangels

in their un-end-ing hymn of praise:
From Ash Wednesday until the Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Lent

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father,

through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of penance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace

and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world.
and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

The Annunciation of Our Lord

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

We give you thanks and praise continued
that the Virgin Mary heard with faith the message of the angel,

and by the power of your Holy Spirit

conceived and bore the Word made flesh.

From the warmth of her womb to the stillness of the grave

he shared our life in human form.

In him new light has dawned upon the world

and you have become one with us

that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise;

we too join with angels and archangels

as they proclaim your glory without end:
From the Fifth Sunday of Lent until the Wednesday of Holy Week

It is indeed right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.
The power of the life-giving cross
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world
and the triumph of Christ crucified.
He is the victim who dies no more,
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,

continued
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,

ex-alting us there to join with angels and arch-an-gels,

for ever prais-ing you and say-ing:

Maundy Thursday

It is indeed right to give you thanks,

Father most ho-ly, through Je-sus Christ our Lord.

For on this night he girded himself with a towel

and, taking the form of a ser-vant, washed the feet of his dis-ci-ples.

He gave us a new com-mand-ment

that we should love one a-no-ther as he has loved us.
Knowing that his hour had come,
in his great love he gave this supper to his disciples
to be a memorial of his passion,
that we might proclaim his death until he comes again,
and feast with him in his kingdom.
Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
all-mighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**Ascension Day**

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ the King of glory.

continued
Bearer of a woman, he came to the rescue of our human race.

Dying for us, he trampled death and conquered sin.

By the glory of his resurrection he opened the way to eternal life.

and by his ascension, gave us the sure hope that where he is we may also be.

Therefore the universe resounds with Easter joy

and with choirs of angels we sing for ever to your praise:

*From the day after Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all

into the heavenly sanctuary,

ever-more to pour upon your Church

the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,

who calls us to be united in prayer

as were his disciples in the upper room

while they awaited his promised gift,

the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing

as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:
The Day of Pentecost

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and ever-lasting God,

through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks because in fulfilment of your promise

you pour out your Spirit upon us,

filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,

and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,

to proclaim your gospel to all nations

and to serve you as a royal priesthood.
Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,

and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,

to proclaim the glory of your name,

for ever praising you and saying:
Trinity Sunday

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit

you are one God, one Lord.

All that you reveal of your glory,

the same we believe of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

without any difference or inequality.

We, your holy Church, acclaim you, Father of majesty unbounded,

your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,

and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.
Three Persons we adore, one in being and equal in majesty.

And so with angels and archangels,

with cherubim and seraphim,

we sing for ever of your glory.
All Saints’ Day

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And now we give you thanks, most gracious God,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.
In communion with angels and archangels,
and with all who served you on earth
and worship you now in heaven,
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying:

*From the day after All Saints’ Day*
*until the day before the First Sunday of Advent*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.  

continued
Your love made visible in Jesus Christ brings home the lost, restores the sinner and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out, flooding lives with goodness and truth, gathering into one in your kingdom a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation we glorify your name, for ever praising you and saying:
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For with the oil of gladness
you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.
As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race
by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

continued
As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

On Saints’ Days

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
ho-ly Father, almighty and e-ter-nal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

We rejoice in the glorious splendour of your majesty

for you have given us a share with N [or: with N__]

in the inheritance of the saints in light.

In the darkness of this passing age

they proclaim the glory of your kingdom.

Chosen as lights in the world,

they surround our steps as we journey on

towards the city of eternal light

where they sing the everlasting song of triumph.
In communion with angels and archangels

and all who have served you on earth

and worship you now in heaven,

we raise our voices to proclaim your glory,

for ever praising you and saying:

_Sundays before Lent and after Trinity_

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,

always and everywhere to give you thanks,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,

for Christ has risen from the tomb

and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade.
This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,

unfolds for us your word,

and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.

And though the night will overtake this day

you summon us to live in endless light,

the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.

And so, with choirs of angels

and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory

and join their unending song of praise:
Wholeness and Healing

It is right to give you thanks

in sickness and in health, in suffering and in joy,

through Christ our Saviour and our redeemer,

who as the Good Samaritan

tends the wounds of body and spirit.

He stands by us and pours out for our healing

the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope,

turning the darkness of our pain

into the dawning light of his kingdom.

And so we join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and saying:
Marriage

All glory, honour, thanks and praise be given to you, creator of heaven and earth.

When you made us in your image, creating us male and female, you gave us the gift of marriage.

When sin marred that image you healed our brokenness, giving your Son to die for us.

Therefore we raise our voices, with all who have served you in every age, to proclaim the glory of your name:
Funeral

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth,
giver of life, and conqueror of death.

By his death on the cross, your Son Jesus Christ
offered the one true sacrifice for sin,
breaking the power of evil and putting death to flight.

With all your saints we give you thanks and praise.

Through his resurrection from the dead
you have given us new birth into a living hope,
into an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unaging.

With all your saints we give you thanks and praise.
The joy of resurrection fills the universe,
and so we join with angels and archangels,
with [N and] all your faithful people,
evermore praising you and saying: