

Evening Prayer (Lent)

The Blessing of Light

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

All The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As darkness falls you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts
that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.

All Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessed be God for ever.

Songs for Evening Prayer.

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.

All **Amen.**

The Word of God

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 94

I Lord God to whom vengeance belongs,
O God to whom vengeance belongs, shine out in majesty.

- 2 Rise up, O Judge of the earth;
give the arrogant their just deserts.
- 3 Lord, how long shall the wicked,
how long shall the wicked triumph?
- 4 How long shall the evildoers boast
and pour out such impudent words?
- 5 They crush your people, O Lord,
and afflict your heritage.
- 6 They murder the widow and the stranger;
the orphans they put to death.
- 7 And yet they say, 'The Lord will not see;
neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.'
- 8 Consider, most stupid of people;
you fools, when will you understand?
- 9 He that planted the ear, shall he not hear?
He that formed the eye, shall he not see?
- 10 He who corrects the nations, shall he not punish?
He who teaches the peoples, does he lack knowledge?
- 11 The Lord knows every human thought,
that they are but a breath.
- 12 Blessed are those whom you chasten, O Lord,
whom you instruct from your law;
- 13 That you may give them rest in days of adversity,
until a pit is dug for the wicked.
- 14 For the Lord will not fail his people,
neither will he forsake his inheritance.
- 15 For justice shall return to the righteous,
and all that are true of heart shall follow it.
- 16 Who will rise up for me against the wicked?
Who will take my part against the evildoers?

- 17 If the Lord had not helped me,
my soul would soon have been put to silence.
- 18 And when I said, 'My foot has slipped',
your loving mercy, O Lord, upheld me.
- 19 In the multitude of cares that troubled my heart,
your comforts have refreshed my soul.
- 20 Will you have anything to do with the throne of wickedness,
which fashions evil through its law?
- 21 They gather together against the life of the righteous
and condemn the innocent to death.
- 22 But the Lord has become my stronghold
and my God the rock of my trust.
- 23 He will turn against them their own wickedness
and silence them through their own malice;
the Lord our God will put them to silence.

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.

The Old Testament reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Thus said the Lord: Go and buy a potter's earthenware jug. Take with you some of the elders of the people and some of the senior priests,² and go out to the valley of the son of Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you.³ You shall say: Hear the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: I am going to bring such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.⁴ Because the people have forsaken me, and have profaned this place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah have known, and because they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent,⁵ and gone on building the high places of Baal to burn their children in the fire as burnt-offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it enter my mind;⁶ therefore the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when this place shall no more be called Topheth, or the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of Slaughter.⁷ And in this place I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will make them fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth.⁸ And I will make this city a horror, a thing to be hissed at; everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its disasters.⁹ And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and all shall eat the flesh of their neighbours in the siege, and in the distress with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them.

¹⁰Then you shall break the jug in the sight of those who go with you,¹¹ and shall say to them: Thus says the Lord of hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, so that it can never be mended. In Topheth they shall bury until there is no more room to bury.¹² Thus will I do to this place, says the Lord, and to its inhabitants, making this city like Topheth.¹³ And the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah shall be defiled like the place of Topheth—all the houses upon whose roofs offerings have been made to the whole host of heaven, and libations have been poured out to other gods.

Canticle

A Song of Christ the Servant

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.
- 5 By 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

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.**

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

John 10.22–end

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ ²⁵Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I

know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.'

³¹The Jews took up stones again to stone him. ³²Jesus replied, 'I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these are you going to stone me?' ³³The Jews answered, 'It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you, but for blasphemy, because you, though only a human being, are making yourself God.' ³⁴Jesus answered, 'Is it not written in your law, "I said, you are gods"?' ³⁵If those to whom the word of God came were called "gods"—and the scripture cannot be annulled—³⁶can you say that the one whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world is blaspheming because I said, "I am God's Son"? ³⁷If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me. ³⁸But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.' ³⁹Then they tried to arrest him again, but he escaped from their hands.

⁴⁰He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing earlier, and he remained there. ⁴¹Many came to him, and they were saying, 'John performed no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true.' ⁴²And many believed in him there.

Gospel Cantic

Gospel Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said, or A Song of Praise (page 627) may be said

Refrain:

- 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.**

Prayers

The Collect of the day or the following is said

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said

Trusting in the compassion of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.**