



Evening Prayer

Sunday, 11th February 2024

Sunday Next before Lent

All O God, make speed to save us.
 O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Candles are lit.

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.**

Psalm 2

1 Why are the nations in tumult, ♦
and why do the peoples devise a vain plot?

2 *The kings of the earth rise up,
and the rulers take counsel together, ♦
against the Lord and against his anointed:*

3 'Let us break their bonds asunder ♦
and cast away their cords from us.'

4 *He who dwells in heaven shall laugh them to scorn; ♦
the Lord shall have them in derision.*

5 Then shall he speak to them in his wrath ♦
and terrify them in his fury:

6 'Yet have I set my king ♦
upon my holy hill of Zion.'

7 I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; ♦
he said to me: 'You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.'

8 'Ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance ♦
and the ends of the earth for your possession.'

9 'You shall break them with a rod of iron ♦
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.'

10 *Now therefore be wise, O kings; ♦
be prudent, you judges of the earth.*

11 Serve the Lord with fear, and with trembling kiss his feet, ♦
lest he be angry and you perish from the way,
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

12 *Happy are all they ♦
who take refuge in him.*

Psalm 99

1 The Lord is king: let the peoples tremble; ♦
he is enthroned above the cherubim: let the earth shake.

2 *The Lord is great in Zion ♦
and high above all peoples.*

3 *Let them praise your name, which is great and awesome; ♦
the Lord our God is holy.*

4 *Mighty king, who loves justice,
you have established equity; ♦
you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.*

5 *Exalt the Lord our God; ♦
bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.*

6 *Moses and Aaron among his priests
and Samuel among those who call upon his name, ♦
they called upon the Lord and he answered them.*

7 *He spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; ♦
they kept his testimonies and the law that he gave them.*

8 *You answered them, O Lord our God; ♦
you were a God who forgave them
and pardoned them for their offences.*

9 *Exalt the Lord our God
and worship him upon his holy hill, ♦
for the Lord our God is holy.*

**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.**

First Reading: 1 Kings 19.1-16

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 1.16-end

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to

you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

A short reflection follows

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Lord is the strength of my life.

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

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

from Psalm 27 and John 1

The Magnificat

- 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

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

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 grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.