



Evening Prayer

Sunday, 20th October 2024

Twenty-First Sunday after Trinity

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 141

1 O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; ♦
hear my voice when I cry to you.

2 *Let my prayer rise before you as incense, ♦
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

3 Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, ♦
and guard the door of my lips;

4 *Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; ♦
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers,
nor taste the pleasures of their table.*

5 Let the righteous smite me in friendly rebuke;
but let not the oil of the unrighteous anoint my head; ♦
for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.

6 *Let their rulers be overthrown in stony places; ♦
then they may know that my words are sweet.*

7 As when a plough turns over the earth in furrows, ♦
let their bones be scattered at the mouth of the Pit.

8 *But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; ♦
in you I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.*

9 Protect me from the snare which they have laid for me ♦
and from the traps of the evildoers.

10 *Let the wicked fall into their own nets, ♦
while I pass by in safety.*

**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: Joshua 14.6-14

Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal; and Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite said to him, 'You know what the Lord said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-barnea concerning you and me. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to spy out the land; and I brought him an honest report. But my companions who went up with me made the heart of the people fail; yet I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying, "Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children for ever, because you have wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God." And now, as you see, the Lord has kept me alive, as he said, these forty-five years since the time that the Lord spoke this word to Moses, while Israel was journeying through the wilderness; and here I am today, eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was on the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war, and for going and coming. So now give me this hill country of which the Lord spoke on that day; for you heard on that day how the Anakim were there, with great fortified cities; it may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall drive them out, as the Lord said.'

Then Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. So Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholeheartedly followed the Lord, the God of Israel.

Second Reading: Matthew 12.1-21

At that time Jesus went through the cornfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, 'Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath.' He said to them, 'Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the

sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, “I desire mercy and not sacrifice”, you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.’

He left that place and entered their synagogue; a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, ‘Is it lawful to cure on the sabbath?’ so that they might accuse him. He said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the sabbath.’ Then he said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other. But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

‘Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,
my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased.
I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.
He will not wrangle or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.
He will not break a bruised reed
or quench a smouldering wick
until he brings justice to victory.
And in his name the Gentiles will hope.’

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

Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord,
to your faithful people pardon and peace,
that they may be cleansed from all their sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
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.

Amen.

All 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 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.

