



# Evening Prayer

## Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### Last 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 119.121-136

121 I have done what is just and right; ♦  
O give me not over to my oppressors.

*122 Stand surety for your servant's good; ♦  
let not the proud oppress me.*

123 My eyes fail with watching for your salvation ♦  
and for your righteous promise.

*124 O deal with your servant according to your faithful love ♦  
and teach me your statutes.*

125 I am your servant; O grant me understanding, ♦  
that I may know your testimonies.

*126 It is time for you to act, O Lord, ♦  
for they frustrate your law.*

127 Therefore I love your commandments ♦  
above gold, even much fine gold.

*128 Therefore I direct my steps by all your precepts, ♦  
and all false ways I utterly abhor.*

129 Your testimonies are wonderful; ♦  
therefore my soul keeps them.

*130 The opening of your word gives light; ♦  
it gives understanding to the simple.*

131 I open my mouth and draw in my breath, ♦  
as I long for your commandments.

*132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, ♦  
as is your way with those who love your name.*

133 Order my steps by your word, ♦  
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

*134 Redeem me from earthly oppressors ♦  
so that I may keep your commandments.*

135 Show the light of your countenance upon your  
servant ♦  
and teach me your statutes.

*136 My eyes run down with streams of water, ♦  
because the wicked do not keep your law.*

**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: Ecclesiastes 11, 12*

Send out your bread upon the waters,  
for after many days you will get it back.  
Divide your means seven ways, or even eight,  
for you do not know what disaster may happen on earth.  
When clouds are full,  
they empty rain on the earth;  
whether a tree falls to the south or to the north,  
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.  
Whoever observes the wind will not sow;  
and whoever regards the clouds will not reap.  
Just as you do not know how the breath comes to the bones in the  
mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who makes  
everything.  
In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your  
hands be idle; for you do not know which will prosper, this or that,  
or whether both alike will be good.  
Light is sweet, and it is pleasant for the eyes to see the sun.  
Even those who live for many years should rejoice in them all; yet  
let them remember that the days of darkness will be many. All that  
comes is vanity.  
Rejoice, young man, while you are young, and let your heart cheer  
you in the days of your youth. Follow the inclination of your heart

and the desire of your eyes, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgement.

Banish anxiety from your mind, and put away pain from your body; for youth and the dawn of life are vanity.

Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come, and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'; before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return with the rain; on the day when the guards of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the women who grind cease working because they are few, and those who look through the windows see dimly; when the doors on the street are shut, and the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low; when one is afraid of heights, and terrors are in the road; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along and desire fails; because all must go to their eternal home, and the mourners will go about the streets; before the silver cord is snapped, and the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher is broken at the fountain, and the wheel broken at the cistern, and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the breath returns to God who gave it. Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher; all is vanity. Besides being wise, the Teacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs. The Teacher sought to find pleasing words, and he wrote words of truth plainly. The sayings of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings that are given by one shepherd. Of anything beyond these, my child, beware. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God, and keep his commandments; for that is the whole duty of everyone. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.

*Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2.1-7*

You then, my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus; and what you have heard from me through many witnesses entrust

to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well. Share in suffering like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No one serving in the army gets entangled in everyday affairs; the soldier's aim is to please the enlisting officer. And in the case of an athlete, no one is crowned without competing according to the rules. It is the farmer who does the work who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in all things.

*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*

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
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.**

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