



# Evening Prayer

## Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Second Sunday before Advent

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

All            Your faithful servants bless you.  
All            **They make known the glory of your kingdom.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
our light and our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
Now, as darkness is falling,  
wash away our transgressions,  
cleanse us by your refining fire  
and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.  
By the light of Christ,  
dispel the darkness of our hearts  
and make us ready to enter your kingdom,  
where songs of praise for ever sound.  
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 95

1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; ♦  
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.

2 *Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ♦  
and be glad in him with psalms.*

3 For the Lord is a great God ♦  
and a great king above all gods.

4 *In his hand are the depths of the earth ♦  
and the heights of the mountains are his also.*

5 The sea is his, for he made it, ♦  
and his hands have moulded the dry land.

6 *Come, let us worship and bow down ♦  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

7 For he is our God; ♦  
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

8 *O that today you would listen to his voice: ♦  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
on that day at Massah in the wilderness,*

9 *'When your forebears tested me, and put me to the  
proof, ♦  
though they had seen my works.*

10 *'Forty years long I detested that generation and said, ♦  
"This people are wayward in their hearts;  
they do not know my ways."*

11 'So I swore in my wrath, ♦  
"They shall not enter into my rest." '

**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: Daniel 3.13-end*

Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. Nebuchadnezzar said to them, 'Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?'

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defence to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.'

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace to be heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. So the men were bound, still wearing their tunics, their trousers, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king's

command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up quickly. He said to his counsellors, 'Was it not three men that we threw bound into the fire?' They answered the king, 'True, O king.' He replied, 'But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god.' Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, 'Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!' So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. Nebuchadnezzar said, 'Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way.' Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

*Second Reading: Matthew 13.24-30, 36-43*

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come

from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.”

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

*A short reflection follows*

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;  
you hold me by my right hand.

**And afterwards receive me with glory.**

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

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

*from Psalm 73*

## 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*

Heavenly Father,  
whose blessed Son was revealed  
to destroy the works of the devil  
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that we, having this hope,  
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;  
that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;  
where he is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,  
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.**

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,  
bring us to reign with him in glory.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**