



# Evening Prayer

## Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

### First Sunday of Advent

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

All      Reveal among us the light of your presence  
          **that we may behold your power and glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
creator of light and darkness,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
As evening falls, you renew your promise  
to reveal among us the light of your presence.  
May your word be a lantern to our feet  
and a light upon our path  
that we may behold your coming among us.  
Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness  
and free our tongues to sing your praise.  
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 9.1-end**

1 I will give thanks to you, Lord, with my whole heart; ♦  
I will tell of all your marvellous works.

*2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; ♦  
I will make music to your name, O Most High.*

3 When my enemies are driven back, ♦  
they stumble and perish at your presence.

*4 For you have maintained my right and my cause; ♦  
you sat on your throne giving righteous judgement.*

5 You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the  
wicked; ♦  
you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

*6 The enemy was utterly laid waste. ♦  
You uprooted their cities;  
their very memory has perished.*

7 But the Lord shall endure for ever; ♦  
he has made fast his throne for judgement.

*8 For he shall rule the world with righteousness ♦  
and govern the peoples with equity.*

9 Then will the Lord be a refuge for the oppressed, ♦  
a refuge in the time of trouble.

*10 And those who know your name will put their trust in you, ♦  
for you, Lord, have never failed those who seek you.*

11 Sing praises to the Lord who dwells in Zion; ♦  
declare among the peoples the things he has done.

*12 The avenger of blood has remembered them; ♦  
he did not forget the cry of the oppressed.*

13 Have mercy upon me, O Lord; ♦  
consider the trouble I suffer from those who hate me,  
you that lift me up from the gates of death;

*14 That I may tell all your praises in the gates of the city of  
Zion ♦  
and rejoice in your salvation.*

15 The nations shall sink into the pit of their making ♦  
and in the snare which they set will their own foot be  
taken.

*16 The Lord makes himself known by his acts of justice; ♦  
the wicked are snared in the works of their own hands.*

17 They shall return to the land of darkness, ♦  
all the nations that forget God.

*18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten ♦  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.*

19 Arise, O Lord, and let not mortals have the upper  
hand; ♦  
let the nations be judged before your face.

*20 Put them in fear, O Lord, ♦  
that the nations may know themselves to be but mortal.*

**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: Joel 3.9-end*

Proclaim this among the nations:  
Prepare war,  
    stir up the warriors.  
Let all the soldiers draw near,  
    let them come up.

Beat your ploughshares into swords,  
and your pruning-hooks into spears;  
let the weakling say, 'I am a warrior.'

Come quickly,  
all you nations all around,  
gather yourselves there.  
Bring down your warriors, O Lord.  
Let the nations rouse themselves,  
and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat;  
for there I will sit to judge  
all the neighbouring nations.

Put in the sickle,  
for the harvest is ripe.  
Go in, tread,  
for the wine press is full.  
The vats overflow,  
for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes,  
in the valley of decision!  
For the day of the Lord is near  
in the valley of decision.  
The sun and the moon are darkened,  
and the stars withdraw their shining.

The Lord roars from Zion,  
and utters his voice from Jerusalem,  
and the heavens and the earth shake.  
But the Lord is a refuge for his people,  
a stronghold for the people of Israel.

So you shall know that I, the Lord your God,  
dwell in Zion, my holy mountain.  
And Jerusalem shall be holy,  
and strangers shall never again pass through it.

On that day  
the mountains shall drip sweet wine,  
the hills shall flow with milk,  
and all the stream beds of Judah  
shall flow with water;  
a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord  
and water the Wadi Shittim.

Egypt shall become a desolation  
and Edom a desolate wilderness,  
because of the violence done to the people of Judah,  
in whose land they have shed innocent blood.  
But Judah shall be inhabited for ever,  
and Jerusalem to all generations.  
I will avenge their blood, and I will not clear the guilty,  
for the Lord dwells in Zion.

*Second Reading: Revelation 14.13 - 15.4*

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who from now on die in the Lord.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labours, for their deeds follow them.'  
Then I looked, and there was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like the Son of Man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand! Another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to the one who sat on the cloud, 'Use your sickle and reap, for the hour to reap has come, because the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.' So the one who sat on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was reaped.  
Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. Then another angel came out from the altar, the angel who has authority over fire, and he called with a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, 'Use your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe.' So the angel swung his sickle over the earth and gathered the vintage of the earth, and he threw it into the great wine press of the wrath of

God. And the wine press was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the wine press, as high as a horse's bridle, for a distance of about two hundred miles.

Then I saw another portent in heaven, great and amazing: seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is ended.

And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb:

'Great and amazing are your deeds,  
Lord God the Almighty!  
Just and true are your ways,  
King of the nations!  
Lord, who will not fear  
and glorify your name?  
For you alone are holy.  
All nations will come  
and worship before you,  
for your judgements have been revealed.'

*A short reflection follows*

My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:  
in your word is my hope.

**My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:  
in your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you,  
so that you shall be feared.

**In your word is my hope.**

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

**My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:  
in your word is my hope.**

*from Psalm 130*

## 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 God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**