



# Evening Prayer

## Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### Second 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 75**

1 We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, ♦  
for your name is near, as your wonderful deeds declare.

2 *‘I will seize the appointed time; ♦  
I, the Lord, will judge with equity.*

3 *‘Though the earth reels and all that dwell in her, ♦  
it is I that hold her pillars steady.*

4 *‘To the boasters I say, “Boast no longer,” ♦  
and to the wicked, “Do not lift up your horn.*

5 *‘“Do not lift up your horn on high; ♦  
do not speak with a stiff neck.”’*

6 *For neither from the east nor from the west, ♦  
nor yet from the wilderness comes exaltation.*

7 But God alone is judge; ♦  
he puts down one and raises up another.

8 *For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, ♦  
well mixed and full of foaming wine.*

9 He pours it out for all the wicked of the earth; ♦  
they shall drink it, and drain the dregs.

10 *But I will rejoice for ever ♦  
and make music to the God of Jacob.*

11 All the horns of the wicked will I break, ♦  
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

## **Psalm 76**

1 In Judah God is known; ♦  
his name is great in Israel.

2 *At Salem is his tabernacle, ♦  
and his dwelling place in Zion.*

3 *There broke he the flashing arrows of the bow, ♦  
the shield, the sword and the weapons of war.*

4 *In the light of splendour you appeared, ♦  
glorious from the eternal mountains.*

5 *The boastful were plundered; they have slept their  
sleep; ♦  
none of the warriors can lift their hand.*

6 *At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, ♦  
both horse and chariot fell stunned.*

7 *Terrible are you in majesty: ♦  
who can stand before your face when you are angry?*

8 *You caused your judgement to be heard from heaven; ♦  
the earth trembled and was still,*

9 *When God arose to judgement, ♦  
to save all the meek upon earth.*

10 *You crushed the wrath of the peoples ♦  
and bridled the wrathful remnant.*

11 *Make a vow to the Lord your God and keep it; ♦  
let all who are round about him bring gifts  
to him that is worthy to be feared.*

12 *He breaks down the spirit of princes ♦  
and strikes terror in the kings of the earth.*

**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: Isaiah 40.1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'  
See, the Lord God comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Second Reading: Luke 1.1-25*

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people

of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

*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*

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honour and glory, 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.**