



Evening Prayer

Sunday, 4th May 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

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

All In your resurrection, O Christ,
 let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.
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.

A short silence is kept

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 86

1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, ♦
for I am poor and in misery.

2 *Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; ♦
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.*

3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; ♦
I call upon you all the day long.

4 *Gladden the soul of your servant, ♦
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

5 For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, ♦
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

6 *Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer ♦
and listen to the voice of my supplication.*

7 In the day of my distress I will call upon you, ♦
for you will answer me.

8 *Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, ♦
nor any works like yours.*

9 All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O
Lord, ♦
and shall glorify your name.

10 *For you are great and do wonderful things; ♦
you alone are God.*

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; ♦
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

12 *I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, ♦
and glorify your name for evermore;*

13 For great is your steadfast love towards me, ♦
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

*14 O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life; ♦
they have not set you before their eyes.*

15 But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, ♦
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

*16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; ♦
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.*

17 Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; ♦
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

**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 38.9-20

A writing of King Hezekiah of Judah, after he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness:

I said: In the noontide of my days

I must depart;

I am consigned to the gates of Sheol

for the rest of my years.

I said, I shall not see the Lord

in the land of the living;

I shall look upon mortals no more

among the inhabitants of the world.

My dwelling is plucked up and removed from me

like a shepherd's tent;

like a weaver I have rolled up my life;

he cuts me off from the loom;

from day to night you bring me to an end;

I cry for help until morning;
like a lion he breaks all my bones;
from day to night you bring me to an end.

Like a swallow or a crane I clamour,
I moan like a dove.
My eyes are weary with looking upwards.
O Lord, I am oppressed; be my security!
But what can I say? For he has spoken to me,
and he himself has done it.
All my sleep has fled
because of the bitterness of my soul.

O Lord, by these things people live,
and in all these is the life of my spirit.
O restore me to health and make me live!
Surely it was for my welfare
that I had great bitterness;
but you have held back my life
from the pit of destruction,
for you have cast all my sins
behind your back.
For Sheol cannot thank you,
death cannot praise you;
those who go down to the Pit cannot hope
for your faithfulness.
The living, the living, they thank you,
as I do this day;
fathers make known to children
your faithfulness.

The Lord will save me,
and we will sing to stringed instruments
all the days of our lives,
at the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: John 11.17-44

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'] She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips

of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

A short reflection

The Lord is my strength and my song:
he has become my salvation.

**The Lord is my strength and my song:
he has become my salvation.**

I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.

He has become my salvation.

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

**The Lord is my strength and my song:
he has become my salvation.**

from Psalm 118

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.*

**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 Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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.

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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 the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

© [The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005](#) Official Common Worship apps, books and eBooks are available from [Church House Publishing](#). The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from *The New Revised Standard Version* Anglicized Edition, copyright 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.