



# Evening Prayer

## Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Third 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.**

All      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.

***Silence is kept.***

All      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.  
          **Amen.**

## Psalm 12

1 Help me, Lord, for no one godly is left; ♦  
the faithful have vanished from the whole human race.

2 *They all speak falsely with their neighbour; ♦  
they flatter with their lips, but speak from a double heart.*

3 O that the Lord would cut off all flattering lips ♦  
and the tongue that speaks proud boasts!

4 *Those who say, 'With our tongue will we prevail; ♦  
our lips we will use; who is lord over us?'*

5 'Because of the oppression of the needy,  
and the groaning of the poor, ♦  
I will rise up now,' says the Lord,  
'and set them in the safety that they long for.'

6 *The words of the Lord are pure words, ♦  
like silver refined in the furnace  
and purified seven times in the fire.*

7 You, O Lord, will watch over us ♦  
and guard us from this generation for ever.

8 *The wicked strut on every side, ♦  
when what is vile is exalted by the whole human race.*

## Psalm 14

1 The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' ♦  
Corrupt are they, and abominable in their wickedness;  
there is no one that does good.

2 *The Lord has looked down from heaven  
upon the children of earth, ♦  
to see if there is anyone who is wise  
and seeks after God.*

3 But every one has turned back;  
all alike have become corrupt: ♦  
there is none that does good; no, not one.

4 *Have they no knowledge, those evildoers, ♦  
who eat up my people as if they ate bread  
and do not call upon the Lord?*

5 There shall they be in great fear; ♦  
for God is in the company of the righteous.

6 *Though they would confound the counsel of the poor, ♦  
yet the Lord shall be their refuge.*

7 O that Israel's salvation would come out of Zion! ♦  
When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,  
then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

**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 Isaiah 5.8-end*

Ah, you who join house to house,  
who add field to field,  
until there is room for no one but you,  
and you are left to live alone  
in the midst of the land!

The Lord of hosts has sworn in my hearing:  
Surely many houses shall be desolate,  
large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant.  
For ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath,  
and a homer of seed shall yield a mere ephah.

Ah, you who rise early in the morning  
in pursuit of strong drink,  
who linger in the evening  
to be inflamed by wine,  
whose feasts consist of lyre and harp,  
tambourine and flute and wine,  
but who do not regard the deeds of the Lord,  
or see the work of his hands!  
Therefore my people go into exile without knowledge;  
their nobles are dying of hunger,  
and their multitude is parched with thirst.

Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite  
and opened its mouth beyond measure;  
the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude go down,

her throng and all who exult in her.  
People are bowed down, everyone is brought low,  
and the eyes of the haughty are humbled.  
But the Lord of hosts is exalted by justice,  
and the Holy God shows himself holy by righteousness.  
Then the lambs shall graze as in their pasture,  
fatlings and kids shall feed among the ruins.

Ah, you who drag iniquity along with cords of falsehood,  
who drag sin along as with cart-ropes,  
who say, 'Let him make haste,  
let him speed his work  
that we may see it;  
let the plan of the Holy One of Israel hasten to fulfilment,  
that we may know it!'  
Ah, you who call evil good  
and good evil,  
who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness,  
who put bitter for sweet  
and sweet for bitter!  
Ah, you who are wise in your own eyes,  
and shrewd in your own sight!  
Ah, you who are heroes in drinking wine  
and valiant at mixing drink,  
who acquit the guilty for a bribe,  
and deprive the innocent of their rights!  
Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble,  
and as dry grass sinks down in the flame,  
so their root will become rotten,  
and their blossom go up like dust;  
for they have rejected the instruction of the Lord of hosts,  
and have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Therefore the anger of the Lord was kindled against his people,  
and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them;  
the mountains quaked,  
and their corpses were like refuse  
in the streets.  
For all this his anger has not turned away,  
and his hand is stretched out still.

He will raise a signal for a nation far away,

and whistle for a people at the ends of the earth;  
Here they come, swiftly, speedily!  
None of them is weary, none stumbles,  
    none slumbers or sleeps,  
not a loincloth is loose,  
    not a sandal-thong broken;  
their arrows are sharp,  
    all their bows bent,  
their horses' hoofs seem like flint,  
    and their wheels like the whirlwind.  
Their roaring is like a lion,  
    like young lions they roar;  
they growl and seize their prey,  
    they carry it off, and no one can rescue.  
They will roar over it on that day,  
    like the roaring of the sea.  
And if one looks to the land—  
    only darkness and distress;  
and the light grows dark with clouds.

*Second Reading: Acts 13.13-41*

Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem; but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. After the reading of the law and the prophets, the officials of the synagogue sent them a message, saying, 'Brothers, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, give it.' So Paul stood up and with a gesture began to speak: 'You Israelites, and others who fear God, listen. The God of this people Israel chose our ancestors and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with uplifted arm he led them out of it. For about forty years he put up with them in the wilderness. After he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, he gave them their land as an inheritance for about four hundred and fifty years. After that he gave them judges until the time of the prophet Samuel. Then they asked for a king; and God gave them Saul son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, who reigned for forty years. When he had removed him, he made David their king. In his testimony about him he said, "I have found David,

son of Jesse, to be a man after my heart, who will carry out all my wishes.” Of this man’s posterity God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he promised; before his coming John had already proclaimed a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And as John was finishing his work, he said, “What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. No, but one is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of the sandals on his feet.”

‘My brothers, you descendants of Abraham’s family, and others who fear God, to us the message of this salvation has been sent. Because the residents of Jerusalem and their leaders did not recognize him or understand the words of the prophets that are read every sabbath, they fulfilled those words by condemning him. Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed. When they had carried out everything that was written about him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead; and for many days he appeared to those who came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, and they are now his witnesses to the people. And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm,

“You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you.”

As to his raising him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

“I will give you the holy promises made to David.”

Therefore he has also said in another psalm,

“You will not let your Holy One experience corruption.”

For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, died, was laid beside his ancestors, and experienced corruption; but he whom God raised up experienced no corruption. Let it be known to you therefore, my brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. Beware, therefore, that what the prophets said does not happen to you: “Look, you scoffers!

Be amazed and perish,  
for in your days I am doing a work,  
a work that you will never believe, even if someone tells you.”

*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 Jesus Christ,  
who at your first coming sent your messenger  
to prepare your way before you:  
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries  
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way  
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,  
that at your second coming to judge the world  
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
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 Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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