



Evening Prayer

Sunday, 15th February 2026

Sunday next before Lent

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

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As darkness falls you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.
By the light of Christ, your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts
that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.
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.

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 84

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! ♦
My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the
Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 *The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: ♦
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.*

3 Blessed are they who dwell in your house: ♦
they will always be praising you.

4 *Blessed are those whose strength is in you, ♦
in whose heart are the highways to Zion,*

5 Who going through the barren valley find there a
spring, ♦
and the early rains will clothe it with blessing.

6 *They will go from strength to strength ♦
and appear before God in Zion.*

7 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; ♦
listen, O God of Jacob.

8 *Behold our defender, O God, ♦
and look upon the face of your anointed.*

9 For one day in your courts ♦
is better than a thousand.

10 *I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God ♦
than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.*

11 For the Lord God is both sun and shield;
he will give grace and glory; ♦
no good thing shall the Lord withhold
from those who walk with integrity.

12 *O Lord God of hosts, ♦
blessed are those who put their trust in you.*

**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: Ecclesiasticus 48.1-10

Then Elijah arose, a prophet like fire,
and his word burned like a torch.
He brought a famine upon them,
and by his zeal he made them few in number.
By the word of the Lord he shut up the heavens,
and also three times brought down fire.
How glorious you were, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!
Whose glory is equal to yours?
You raised a corpse from death
and from Hades, by the word of the Most High.
You sent kings down to destruction,
and famous men, from their sickbeds.
You heard rebuke at Sinai
and judgements of vengeance at Horeb.
You anointed kings to inflict retribution,
and prophets to succeed you.
You were taken up by a whirlwind of fire,
in a chariot with horses of fire.
At the appointed time, it is written, you are destined
to calm the wrath of God before it breaks out in fury,
to turn the hearts of parents to their children,
and to restore the tribes of Jacob.

Second Reading: Matthew 17.9-23

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.' And the disciples asked him, 'Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?' He replied, 'Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him

whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands.' Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.' And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, 'Why could we not cast it out?' He said to them, 'Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there", and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.'

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.' And they were greatly distressed.

A short reflection follows

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Lord is the strength of my life.

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

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

from Psalm 27 and John 1

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 Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

All Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
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.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.