



# Evening Prayer

## Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.  
Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,  
that freed from the misery of sin and shame  
we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.  
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 31.1-16

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; ♦  
deliver me in your righteousness.

*2 Incline your ear to me; ♦  
make haste to deliver me.*

3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦  
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

*4 Take me out of the net  
that they have laid secretly for me, ♦  
for you are my strength.*

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

*6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols; ♦  
I put my trust in the Lord.*

7 I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy, ♦  
for you have seen my affliction  
and known my soul in adversity.

*8 You have not shut me up in the hand of the enemy; ♦  
you have set my feet in an open place.*

9 Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble; ♦  
my eye is consumed with sorrow,  
my soul and my body also.

*10 For my life is wasted with grief,  
and my years with sighing; ♦  
my strength fails me because of my affliction,  
and my bones are consumed.*

11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies  
and even to my neighbours,

an object of dread to my acquaintances; ♦  
when they see me in the street they flee from me.

*12 I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind; ♦  
I have become like a broken vessel.*

13 For I have heard the whispering of the crowd;  
fear is on every side; ♦  
they scheme together against me,  
and plot to take my life.

*14 But my trust is in you, O Lord. ♦  
I have said, 'You are my God.*

15 'My times are in your hand; ♦  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.

*16 'Make your face to shine upon your servant, ♦  
and save me for your mercy's sake.'*

**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: Micah 7*

Woe is me! For I have become like one who,  
after the summer fruit has been gathered,  
after the vintage has been gleaned,  
finds no cluster to eat;  
there is no first-ripe fig for which I hunger.  
The faithful have disappeared from the land,  
and there is no one left who is upright;  
they all lie in wait for blood,  
and they hunt each other with nets.  
Their hands are skilled to do evil;  
the official and the judge ask for a bribe,  
and the powerful dictate what they desire;  
thus they pervert justice.

The best of them is like a brier,  
the most upright of them a thorn hedge.  
The day of their sentinels, of their punishment, has come;  
now their confusion is at hand.  
Put no trust in a friend,  
have no confidence in a loved one;  
guard the doors of your mouth  
from her who lies in your embrace;  
for the son treats the father with contempt,  
the daughter rises up against her mother,  
the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
your enemies are members of your own household.  
But as for me, I will look to the Lord,  
I will wait for the God of my salvation;  
my God will hear me.

Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy;  
when I fall, I shall rise;  
when I sit in darkness,  
the Lord will be a light to me.  
I must bear the indignation of the Lord,  
because I have sinned against him,  
until he takes my side  
and executes judgement for me.  
He will bring me out to the light;  
I shall see his vindication.  
Then my enemy will see,  
and shame will cover her who said to me,  
‘Where is the Lord your God?’  
My eyes will see her downfall;  
now she will be trodden down  
like the mire of the streets.

A day for the building of your walls!  
In that day the boundary shall be far extended.  
In that day they will come to you  
from Assyria to Egypt,  
and from Egypt to the River,

from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain.  
But the earth will be desolate  
because of its inhabitants,  
for the fruit of their doings.

Shepherd your people with your staff,  
the flock that belongs to you,  
which lives alone in a forest  
in the midst of a garden land;  
let them feed in Bashan and Gilead  
as in the days of old.  
As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt,  
show us marvellous things.  
The nations shall see and be ashamed  
of all their might;  
they shall lay their hands on their mouths;  
their ears shall be deaf;  
they shall lick dust like a snake,  
like the crawling things of the earth;  
they shall come trembling out of their fortresses;  
they shall turn in dread to the Lord our God,  
and they shall stand in fear of you.

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity  
and passing over the transgression  
of the remnant of your possession?  
He does not retain his anger for ever,  
because he delights in showing clemency.  
He will again have compassion upon us;  
he will tread our iniquities under foot.  
You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.  
You will show faithfulness to Jacob  
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,  
as you have sworn to our ancestors  
from the days of old.

*Second Reading: James 5*

Come now, you rich people, weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you. Your riches have rotted, and your clothes are moth-eaten. Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts on a day of slaughter. You have condemned and murdered the righteous one, who does not resist you.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

*A short reflection follows*

Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.  
**Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.**  
Make haste to help me,  
O Lord of my salvation.  
**Be not far from me, O my God.**  
Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.**

*from Psalm 38*

### *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,

8 to remember his promise of mercy,  
*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*

God our Father,  
who from the family of your servant David  
raised up Joseph the carpenter  
to be the guardian of your incarnate Son  
and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary:  
give us grace to follow him  
in faithful obedience to your commands;  
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.**

Trusting in the compassion of God,  
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 God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.  
**Amen.**

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

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