



# Evening Prayer

## Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026

### Fifth 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.  
As we behold your Son, enthroned on the cross,  
stir up in us the fire of your love,  
that we may be cleansed from all our sins,  
and walk with you in newness of life  
singing the praise of him who died  
for us and our salvation.  
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.**

1 I will exalt you, O Lord,  
because you have raised me up ♦  
and have not let my foes triumph over me.

2 *O Lord my God, I cried out to you ♦  
and you have healed me.*

3 You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead; ♦  
you restored me to life from among those that go down  
to the Pit.

4 *Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; ♦  
give thanks to his holy name.*

5 For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,  
his favour for a lifetime. ♦  
Heaviness may endure for a night,  
but joy comes in the morning.

6 *In my prosperity I said,  
'I shall never be moved.' ♦  
You, Lord, of your goodness,  
have made my hill so strong.'*

7 Then you hid your face from me ♦  
and I was utterly dismayed.

8 *To you, O Lord, I cried; ♦  
to the Lord I made my supplication:*

9 'What profit is there in my blood,  
if I go down to the Pit? ♦  
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

10 *'Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me; ♦  
O Lord, be my helper.'*

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing; ♦  
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with  
gladness;

12 Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; ♦  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

**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: Lamentations 3.19-33*

The thought of my affliction and my homelessness  
is wormwood and gall!  
My soul continually thinks of it  
and is bowed down within me.  
But this I call to mind,  
and therefore I have hope:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,  
his mercies never come to an end;  
they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.  
'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul,  
'therefore I will hope in him.'

The Lord is good to those who wait for him,  
to the soul that seeks him.  
It is good that one should wait quietly  
for the salvation of the Lord.  
It is good for one to bear  
the yoke in youth,  
to sit alone in silence  
when the Lord has imposed it,  
to put one's mouth to the dust  
(there may yet be hope),  
to give one's cheek to the smiter,  
and be filled with insults.

For the Lord will not

reject for ever.  
Although he causes grief, he will have compassion  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;  
for he does not willingly afflict  
or grieve anyone.

*Second Reading: Matthew 20.17-34*

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them on the way, 'See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised.'

Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favour of him. And he said to her, 'What do you want?' She said to him, 'Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.' But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?' They said to him, 'We are able.' He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'

When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to him and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

As they were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. There were two blind men sitting by the roadside. When they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, 'Lord, have mercy on us, Son of David!' The crowd sternly ordered them to be quiet; but they shouted even more loudly, 'Have mercy on us, Lord, Son of David!' Jesus stood still and called them, saying, 'What do you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Lord, let our eyes be opened.'

Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes. Immediately they regained their sight and followed him.

*A short reflection follows*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;  
**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**  
Christ committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips.  
**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.  
**By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**  
By his wounds you have been healed.  
**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;**  
**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

cf 1 Peter 2

*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*

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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.**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
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 God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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