Evening Prayer
Sunday, 29th November 2026
First Sunday of Advent

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

Reveal among us the light of your presence
All **that we may behold your power and glory.**

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.

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 25.1-9

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust; ♦
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, ♦
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.

3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, ♦
and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, ♦
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.

5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, ♦
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions, ♦
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; ♦
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.

8 He will guide the humble in doing right ♦
and teach his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth ♦
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

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 1.1-20

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.
Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth;
  for the Lord has spoken:
I reared children and brought them up,
  but they have rebelled against me.
The ox knows its owner,
  and the donkey its master's crib;
but Israel does not know,
  my people do not understand.

Ah, sinful nation,
  people laden with iniquity,
offspring who do evil,
  children who deal corruptly,
who have forsaken the Lord,
  who have despised the Holy One of Israel,
  who are utterly estranged!

Why do you seek further beatings?
  Why do you continue to rebel?
The whole head is sick,
  and the whole heart faint.
From the sole of the foot even to the head,
  there is no soundness in it,
but bruises and sores
  and bleeding wounds;
they have not been drained, or bound up,
  or softened with oil.

Your country lies desolate,
  your cities are burned with fire;
in your very presence
  aliens devour your land;
  it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.
And daughter Zion is left

like a booth in a vineyard,
like a shelter in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.
If the Lord of hosts
had not left us a few survivors,
we would have been like Sodom,
and become like Gomorrah.

Hear the word of the Lord,
you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!
What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the Lord;
I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?
Trample my courts no more;
bringing offerings is futile;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.
Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.
When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;

cease to do evil,
  learn to do good;
seek justice,
  rescue the oppressed,
defend the orphan,
  plead for the widow.

Come now, let us argue it out,
  says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
  they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
  they shall become like wool.
If you are willing and obedient,
  you shall eat the good of the land;
but if you refuse and rebel,
  you shall be devoured by the sword;
  for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Second Reading: Matthew 21.1-13

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, "The Lord needs them." And he will send them immediately.' This took place to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,
'Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
  humble, and mounted on a donkey,
    and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'
The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

'Hosanna to the Son of David!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!'
When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, 'Who is this?' The crowds were saying, 'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.'
Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written,
"My house shall be called a house of prayer";
but you are making it a den of robbers.'

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

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
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.

© 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.