

*Evening Prayer
from All Saints' Day until
the day before the First Sunday of Advent
Sunday, 21 November 2021
Christ the King
The Sunday next before Advent*

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your faithful servants bless you.

All They make known the glory of your kingdom.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

Now, as darkness is falling,
wash away our transgressions,
cleanse us by your refining fire
and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.
By the light of Christ,
dispel the darkness of our hearts
and make us ready to enter your kingdom,
where songs of praise for ever sound.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

the following hymn

Give me the wings of faith to rise
within the veil, and see
the saints above, how great their joys,
how bright their glories be.

Once they were mourning here below,
and wet their couch with tears;
they wrestled hard, as we do now,
with sins and doubts and fears.

I ask them whence their victory came:
they, with united breath,

ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,
their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,
his zeal inspired their breast,
and, following their incarnate God,
possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise
for his own pattern given;
while the long cloud of witnesses
show the same path to heaven.

Isaac Watts
(Tune: CM)

This opening prayer may be said

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.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 72*

Refrain: *The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

1 Give the king your judgements, O God, ◆
and your righteousness to the son of a king.

2 Then shall he judge your people righteously ◆
and your poor with justice.

3 May the mountains bring forth peace, ◆
and the little hills righteousness for the people.

4May he defend the poor among the people, ◆
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor. *R*

5May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, ◆
from one generation to another.

6May he come down like rain upon the mown grass, ◆
like the showers that water the earth.

7In his time shall righteousness flourish, ◆
and abundance of peace
till the moon shall be no more. *R*

8May his dominion extend from sea to sea ◆
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

9May his foes kneel before him ◆
and his enemies lick the dust.

10The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute; ◆
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.

11All kings shall fall down before him; ◆
all nations shall do him service. *R*

12For he shall deliver the poor that cry out, ◆
the needy and those who have no helper.

13He shall have pity on the weak and poor; ◆
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

14He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, ◆
and dear shall their blood be in his sight. *R*

15Long may he live;
unto him may be given gold from Sheba; ◆
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long.

16May there be abundance of grain on the earth,
standing thick upon the hilltops; ◆
may its fruit flourish like Lebanon
and its grain grow like the grass of the field.

17May his name remain for ever
and be established as long as the sun endures; ◆
may all nations be blest in him
and call him blessed. *R*

18 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, ♦
who alone does wonderful things.

19 And blessed be his glorious name for ever. ♦
May all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

Refrain: *The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice.*

*May your kingdom come, O God,
with deliverance for the needy,
with peace for the righteous,
with overflowing blessing for all nations,
with glory, honour and praise
for Christ, the only Saviour.*

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

**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.**

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.

Daniel 5

King Belshazzar made a great festival for a thousand of his lords, and he was drinking wine in the presence of the thousand.

Under the influence of the wine, Belshazzar commanded that they bring in the vessels of gold and silver that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem, so that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might drink from them. So they brought in the vessels of gold and silver that had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem, and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank the wine and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Immediately the fingers of a human hand appeared and began writing on the plaster of the wall of the royal palace, next to the lampstand. The king was watching the hand as it wrote. Then the king's face turned pale, and his thoughts terrified him. His limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. The king cried aloud to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners; and the king said to the wise men of Babylon, 'Whoever can read this writing and tell me its interpretation shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around his neck, and rank third in the kingdom.' Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or tell the king the

interpretation. Then King Belshazzar became greatly terrified and his face turned pale, and his lords were perplexed.

The queen, when she heard the discussion of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting-hall. The queen said, 'O king, live for ever! Do not let your thoughts terrify you or your face grow pale. There is a man in your kingdom who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father he was found to have enlightenment, understanding, and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and diviners, because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will give the interpretation.'

Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king said to Daniel, 'So you are Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom my father the king brought from Judah? I have heard of you that a spirit of the gods is in you, and that enlightenment, understanding, and excellent wisdom are found in you. Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and tell me its interpretation, but they were not able to give the interpretation of the matter. But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you are able to read the writing and tell me its interpretation, you shall be clothed in purple, have a chain of gold around your neck, and rank third in the kingdom.'

Then Daniel answered in the presence of the king, 'Let your gifts be for yourself, or give your rewards to someone else! Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and let him know the interpretation. O king, the Most High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty. And because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. He killed those he wanted to kill, kept alive those he wanted to keep alive, honoured those he wanted to honour, and degraded those he wanted to degrade. But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he acted proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and his glory was stripped from him. He was driven from human society, and his mind was made like that of an animal. His dwelling was with the wild asses, he was fed grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until he learned that the Most High God has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and sets over it whomsoever he will. And you, Belshazzar his son, have not humbled your heart, even though you knew all this! You have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven! The vessels of his temple have been brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them. You have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know; but the God in whose power is your very breath, and to whom belong all your ways, you have not honoured.

'So from his presence the hand was sent and this writing was inscribed. And this is the writing that was inscribed: mene, mene, tekem, and parsin. This is the interpretation of the matter: mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an

end; tekem, you have been weighed on the scales and found wanting; peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.'

Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed in purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made concerning him that he should rank third in the kingdom.

That very night Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was killed. And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

Canticle

A Song of God's Assembled

Refrain:

***All We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.***

1 We have come before God's holy mountain, ◆
to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

2 We have come before countless angels making festival, ◆
before the assembly of the firstborn citizens of heaven.

3 We have come before God, who is judge of all, ◆
before the spirits of the just made perfect.

4 We have come before Jesus, ◆
the mediator of the new covenant.

5 We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken: ◆
so let us give thanks and offer to God acceptable worship,

6 Full of reverence and awe; ◆
for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12.22-24a, 28, 29

***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.***

***All We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.***

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

John 6.1-15

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, 'Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?' He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, 'Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 'There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?' Jesus said, 'Make the people sit down.' Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.' So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, 'This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.'

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

All And afterwards receive me with glory.

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

**All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

from Psalm 73

Gospel Cantic

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

Refrain:

**All The righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.**

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.**

Refrain:

**All The righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.**

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ for peace

¶ for individuals and their needs

- ¶ *The saints on earth, that they may live as citizens of heaven*
- ¶ *All people, that they may hear and believe the word of God*
- ¶ *All who fear the winter months*
- ¶ *All sovereigns and political leaders, that they may imitate the righteous rule of Christ*
- ¶ *All who grieve or wait with the dying*

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
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.**

The Conclusion

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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