

# An Order for Evening Prayer on Trinity 5 - 12th July 2020

## Preparation

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

Lead your people to freedom, ○ God.  
**And banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.**

## *The minister may say*

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## *The following or another authorised confession and absolution is used -*

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought,  
word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with  
you, our God.  
Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins, heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit, and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## *This prayer of thanksgiving may be said*

Blessed are you, sovereign God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. You led your people to freedom by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. May we who walk in the light of your presence acclaim your Christ, rising victorious, as he banishes all darkness from our hearts and minds. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## *An opening hymn may be sung.*

**Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,**  
sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
might and majesty divine!  
He who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine.

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!  
Wounded souls his comfort know;  
those who fear him find his mercies,  
peace for pain and joy for woe;  
humble hearts are high exalted,  
human pride and power laid low.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;  
spring to melt the snows of winter  
till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days;  
love his laws, declare his judgements,  
walk in all his words and ways;  
he the Lord and we his children:  
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

The day is almost over, and the evening has come;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your Spirit come down upon us to set us free to sing your praise  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## The Word of God

### Psalm Reading Psalm 60

**Restore us again, O God our Saviour.**

<sup>1</sup> O God, you have cast us off and broken us; ♦ you have been  
angry; restore us to yourself again.

<sup>2</sup> You have shaken the earth and torn it apart; ♦ heal its wounds,  
for it trembles.

<sup>3</sup> You have made your people drink bitter things; ♦ we reel from  
the deadly wine you have given us.

<sup>4</sup> You have made those who fear you to flee, ♦ to escape from the  
range of the bow.

<sup>5</sup> That your beloved may be delivered, ♦ save us by your right  
hand and answer us.

**Restore us again, O God our Saviour.**

<sup>6</sup> God has spoken in his holiness: ♦ 'I will triumph and divide  
Shechem, and share out the valley of Succoth.

<sup>7</sup> 'Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; ♦ Ephraim is my helmet  
and Judah my sceptre.

<sup>8</sup> 'Moab shall be my washpot; over Edom will I cast my sandal; ♦  
across Philistia will I shout in triumph.'

**Restore us again, O God our Saviour.**

<sup>9</sup> Who will lead me into the strong city? ♦ Who will bring me into  
Edom?

<sup>10</sup> Have you not cast us off, O God? ♦ Will you no longer go forth  
with our troops?

<sup>11</sup> Grant us your help against the enemy, ♦ for earthly help is in  
vain.

<sup>12</sup> Through God will we do great acts, ♦ for it is he that shall tread  
down our enemies.

**Restore us again, O God our Saviour.**

## First Reading

### 2 Samuel 7: 18-end

<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said:  
"Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me  
this far? <sup>19</sup> And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign LORD, you  
have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this  
decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human!["c]

<sup>20</sup> "What more can David say to you? For you know your servant, Sovereign  
LORD. <sup>21</sup> For the sake of your word and according to your will, you have done  
this great thing and made it known to your servant.

<sup>22</sup> "How great you are, Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is  
no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears. <sup>23</sup> And who is like your  
people Israel—the one nation on earth that God went out to redeem as a  
people for himself, and to make a name for himself, and to perform great and  
awesome wonders by driving out nations and their gods from before your  
people, whom you redeemed from Egypt?["d] <sup>24</sup> You have established your  
people Israel as your very own forever, and you, LORD, have become their  
God.

<sup>25</sup> "And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning  
your servant and his house. Do as you promised, <sup>26</sup> so that your name will be  
great forever. Then people will say, 'The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!' And  
the house of your servant David will be established in your sight.

<sup>27</sup> "LORD Almighty, God of Israel, you have revealed this to your servant, saying,  
'I will build a house for you.' So your servant has found courage to pray this  
prayer to you. <sup>28</sup> Sovereign LORD, you are God! Your covenant is trustworthy,  
and you have promised these good things to your servant. <sup>29</sup> Now be pleased  
to bless the house of your servant, that it may continue forever in your sight;

for you, Sovereign LORD, have spoken, and with your blessing the house of your servant will be blessed forever.”

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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.**

*The Magnificat, The ‘Song of Mary’ may be said or sung - (Luke 1.46-55)*

**With Mary let my soul rejoice,  
and praise God's holy name  
his saving love from first to last,  
from age to age, the same!**

**How strong his arm, how great his power!  
the proud he will disown;  
the meek and humble he exalts  
to share his glorious throne.**

**The rich our God will send away  
and feed the hungry poor;  
the arms of love remain outstretched  
at mercy's open door.**

**So shall God's promise be fulfilled,  
to Israel firmly made:  
a child is born, a Son is given  
whose crown will never fade.**

**All glory to the Father, Son**

**and Spirit now proclaim;  
with Mary let the world rejoice  
and praise God's holy name!**

After Magnificat, David Mowbray (born 1938) © David Mowbray/Jubilate Hymns CM

## **Second Reading**

### **Luke 19: 41-20: 8**

<sup>41</sup> As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it <sup>42</sup> and said, “If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup> The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. <sup>44</sup> They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognise the time of God’s coming to you.”

<sup>45</sup> When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. <sup>46</sup> “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be a house of prayer’<sup>[c]</sup>; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’<sup>[d]</sup>”

<sup>47</sup> Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. <sup>48</sup> Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

**20** One day as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple courts and proclaiming the good news, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. <sup>2</sup> “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”

<sup>3</sup> He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me: <sup>4</sup> John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

<sup>5</sup> They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ <sup>6</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.”

<sup>7</sup> So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”

<sup>8</sup> Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Cantic, The Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon) may be said or sung*

**Lord now let your servant  
Go his way in peace.**

Your great love has brought me  
Joy that will not cease.

For my eyes have seen Him  
Promised from of old.  
Saviour of His People,  
Shepherd of one fold.

Light of revelation  
To the Gentiles shown,  
Light of Israel's glory  
To the World made known.  
Glory to the Father  
And His Only Son,  
and the Holy Spirit  
Ever Three In One.

*A sermon is preached*

**Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,**  
sing and praise your God and mine!

Easy to say, easy to sing perhaps, but how easy is it to do?

I touched briefly in a recent sermon on the concept of a 'Sacrifice of Praise' and suggested that it might be regarded as an 'Oxymoron' - a phrase that is so much at odds with itself that the two ideas or clauses inside it are mutually exclusive - like 'Its the same difference' - how can it be the same if it is different? - or "No one goes to that restaurant anymore. It's always too crowded." - or - "And faith unfaithful kept him falsely true." - Alfred Tennyson - which in itself is almost nonsense, but which is a vivid portrayal in just a few memorable words of someone whose mind and heart are so confused that they manage to persuade themselves that even their unfaithfulness is a form of faith and a demonstration of their intent towards faith despite their inability to commit to the target of that faith!

Now sometimes these are just confusing, but usually they are used for effect, and in fact, they intensify the ideas behind them. And sometimes, maybe these times in which we are living now, create exactly the same confections of ideas,

even of Faith, as some of these often used phrases. In effect, our actions and words appear to be directly at odds with our surroundings and experiences.

But it is all too easy, and sometimes a 'Good Hymn' aids us in this deception! - it is all too easy to try to fool ourselves and others, and maybe even God!, by entering into the performance of the act despite or in the teeth of the gale that is raging against us, with gritted teeth, and like the Duke of Plazatoro's wife, to try to make ourselves feel what we don't feel in our heart! (she decided she would love her husband and by dint of hard work she 'with double shotted guns and colours nailed on to the mast...' and some degree of moulding the poor man into a form she might be able to love, claimed she eventually did indeed love him! - or at least, the image of him that she had created in order to make it possible)

The Psalmist uses oxymoronic phrases too throughout the Psalms, and in our Psalm for this evening we find, towards the end of the Psalm that one moment the desertion ( or apparent desertion) by God of His People is declared -

Have you not cast us off, O God? ♦ Will you no longer go forth  
with our troops?

Then we get -

Through God will we do great acts, ♦ for it is he that shall tread  
down our enemies.

Is the Psalmist playing the same game as the character in Tennyson's poem by portraying the impossible conflict so as to fool both writer / singer and the reader? Well if that is the case then perhaps it works all too well! for in effect it highlights the impossibility of any idea that by saying something is so loud and long enough it will become so! If indeed God has cast off His People then all ideas of success through Him are lost.

But that is the point, isn't it! The Psalmist has reached a point where all that can be done and all that is left is to Praise God for who He is and leave it at that! This maybe is truly a 'Sacrifice of Praise' - not despite the evidence to the contrary, or in the teeth of obvious reality, in the hope that it will somehow be changed by our actions, but to praise God for Who He is and His Mighty Acts anyway, because it is 'right and proper', as the Book of

Common Prayer' puts it. To 'Give to God the Glory due to His Name' and to leave our hopes and aspirations for change simply in His hands. Maybe, to do a brave and possibly foolish thing and try to improve on the words of as great a wordsmith as Tennyson - to let our

**'Faith unfaithful keep us truly true'**

For it is not our faith's power and strength that will change what needs changing, but His Faithfulness that matters, and of that the Psalmist is sure, and so can end his song, seemingly out of the blue and with no logical progression from 'Have you not cast us off, O God.' to

**Through God will we do great acts, ♦ for  
it is he that shall tread down our  
enemies.**

**- AMEN**

*The Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Prayers**

*Intercessions are offered. -*

We pray for all affected by the Coronavirus and the resulting lock-down. Guide our national and world leaders as they seek answers to the many problems. Give the medical scientists and researchers as they develop new medicines and treatments the understanding and skills needed. Strengthen and guide those who work in Hospitals, Care Homes and who care for others in their own homes. We thank you for their dedication and service, often given without concern for their own safety.

Strengthen and protect all our families, loved ones and friends, especially those who are elderly and infirm.

We pray for... Sylvia, Matthew, Jean, Terry, Alex, Dougie, Nellie, Flo, Aiden, Kath, Barbara, Alan, Andrew, Kay, Baby Lucas, Jonathan, Sheila, Cliff, Stephen, Ken, Diane, Sheila, Jessie and Arthur, Peter, Gerry, Cybil, Andrew, Shannon, Susan, Gracie Mae, Dennis, Gemma, Elaine, Baby Rory, Andy, Jean, Nickie and Roy & Linda and Hilda.

**Those who have recently died:**

Lorna and Audrey

*The Collect for the day,*

Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Second Collect at Evening Prayer*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils*

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O LORD, our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth: Most heartily we beseech thee with thy favour to behold our most

gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen *ELIZABETH*; and so replenish her with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that she may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endue her plentifully with heavenly gifts; grant her in health and wealth long to live; strengthen her that she may vanquish and overcome all her enemies; and finally after this life she may attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who alone workest great marvels: Send down upon our Bishops, and Curates, and all Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O God our heavenly Father, you have blessed us and given us dominion over all the earth: Increase our reverence before the mystery of life; and give us new insight into your purposes for the human race, and new wisdom and determination in making provision for its future in accordance with your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. *Amen.*

### *The Lord's Prayer is said*

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, 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 Conclusion**

### *A Hymn is Sung...*

God is working his purpose out  
as year succeeds to year.  
God is working his purpose out,  
and the day is drawing near.  
Nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea

How can we do the work of God  
How prosper and increase  
Harmony in the human race,  
and the reign of perfect peace?  
What can we do to urge the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the Earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
As the waters cover the sea?

All our efforts are nothing worth  
unless God bless the deed;  
vain our hopes for the harvest tide  
till he brings to life the seed.  
Yet ever nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled  
with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

Arthur Campbell Ainger, adapted by Michael Forster  
This version © 1996 Kevin Mayhew

### The Blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

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

*The Grace*

**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.**