

An Order for Evening Prayer on Trinity 6 - 19th 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.

○ God, you search me and you know me,
all my thoughts lie open to your gaze;
when I walk or lie down you are before me:
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising,
you discern my purpose from afar;
and with love everlasting you besiege me:
in every moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,
you have known its meaning through and through;
you are with me beyond my understanding;
God of my present, my past and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,
still I search for shelter from your light;
there is nowhere on earth I can escape you:
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and you shaped me,
gave me life within my mother's womb;
for the wonder of who I am I praise you:
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.
Bernadette Farrell © Bernadette Farrell. OCP Publications.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, ○ 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 67

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

God be gracious to us and bless us ♦ and make his face to shine upon us,

That your way may be known upon earth, ♦ your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad, ♦ for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, ♦ and God, our own God, will bless us.

God will bless us, ♦ and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

First Reading

I Kings 2: 10-12, 3: 16-28

¹⁰ Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David.

¹¹ He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. ¹² So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

¹⁶ Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷ One of them said, “Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. ¹⁸ The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

¹⁹ “During the night this woman’s son died because she lay on him. ²⁰ So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your

servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. ²¹ The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn’t the son I had borne.”

²² The other woman said, “No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours.”

But the first one insisted, “No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine.” And so they argued before the king.

²³ The king said, “This one says, ‘My son is alive and your son is dead,’ while that one says, ‘No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.’”

²⁴ Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king. ²⁵ He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

²⁶ The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, “Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don’t kill him!” But the other said, “Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!”

²⁷ Then the king gave his ruling: “Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother.”

²⁸ When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

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

Acts 4: 1-22

4 The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. **2** They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. **3** They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. **4** But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

5 The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. **6** Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. **7** They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! **9** If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, **10** then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. **11** Jesus is

"the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone."

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

13 When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. **14** But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say. **15** So they ordered them to withdraw from the Sanhedrin and then conferred together. **16** "What are we going to do with these men?" they asked. "Everyone living in Jerusalem knows they have performed a notable sign, and we cannot deny it. **17** But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn them to speak no longer to anyone in this name."

18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. **19** But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! **20** As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

21 After further threats they let them go. They could not decide how to punish them, because all the people were praising God for what had happened. **22** For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Canticle, 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

- 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

The Collect for the day,

Creator God, you made us all in your image: may we discern you in all that we see, and serve you in all that we do; 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.**

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 and Joan.

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 plenteously 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...

Creation sings each plant and tree

Each bird and beast in harmony
The brightest star the smallest cell
God's tender care and glory tell
From ocean depths to mountain peaks
In praise of God creation speaks

Creation speaks a message true
Reminds us we are creatures too
To serve as stewards is our role
Despite our dreams of full control
When we disparage what God owns
In turmoil all creation groans

Creation groans to see the day
Which ends all bondage all decay
Frustrated now it must await
The Lord who comes to recreate
Till round the universe there rings
The song his new creation sings

Martin E. Leckebusch, Dimitri S. Bortnianski

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.**