

An Order for Evening Prayer on Trinity 7 - 26th 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.

Teach me, my God and King,
in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything
to do it as for thee.

A man that looks on glass,
on it may stay his eye;
or if he pleaseth, through it pass,
and then the heaven espy.

All may of thee partake;
nothing can be so mean,
which with this tincture, "for thy sake,"
will not grow bright and clean.

A servant with this clause
makes drudgery divine:
who sweeps a room, as for thy laws,
makes that and the action fine.

This is the famous stone
that turneth all to gold;
for that which God doth touch and own
cannot for less be told.

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 75

God alone is judge.

- ¹ We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, ♦ for your name is near, as your wonderful deeds declare.
- ² 'I will seize the appointed time; ♦ I, the Lord, will judge with equity.
- ³ 'Though the earth reels and all that dwell in her, ♦ it is I that hold her pillars steady.
- ⁴ 'To the boasters I say, "Boast no longer," ♦ and to the wicked, "Do not lift up your horn.
- ⁵ "'Do not lift up your horn on high; ♦ do not speak with a stiff neck.' '

God alone is judge.

- ⁶ For neither from the east nor from the west, ♦ nor yet from the wilderness comes exaltation.
- ⁷ But God alone is judge; ♦ he puts down one and raises up another.
- ⁸ For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, ♦ well mixed and full of foaming wine.
- ⁹ He pours it out for all the wicked of the earth; ♦ they shall drink it, and drain the dregs.

God alone is judge.

- ¹⁰ But I will rejoice for ever ♦ and make music to the God of Jacob.
- ¹¹ All the horns of the wicked will I break, ♦ but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

God alone is judge.

First Reading

1 Kings 6: 11-14, 23-end

¹¹ The word of the LORD came to Solomon: ¹² "As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, observe my laws and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfil through you the promise I gave to David your father. ¹³ And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel."

¹⁴ So Solomon built the temple and completed it.

²³ For the inner sanctuary he made a pair of cherubim out of olive wood, each ten cubits high. ²⁴ One wing of the first cherub was five cubits long, and the other wing five cubits—ten cubits from wing tip to wing tip. ²⁵ The second cherub also measured ten cubits, for the two cherubim were identical in size and shape. ²⁶ The height of each cherub was ten cubits. ²⁷ He placed the cherubim inside the innermost room of the temple, with their wings spread out. The wing of one cherub touched one wall, while the wing of the other touched the other wall, and their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. ²⁸ He overlaid the cherubim with gold.

²⁹ On the walls all around the temple, in both the inner and outer rooms, he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers. ³⁰ He also covered the floors of both the inner and outer rooms of the temple with gold.

³¹ For the entrance to the inner sanctuary he made doors out of olive wood that were one fifth of the width of the sanctuary. ³² And on the two olive-wood doors he carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers, and overlaid the cherubim and palm trees with hammered gold. ³³ In the same way, for the entrance to the main hall he made doorframes out of olive wood that were one fourth of the width of the hall. ³⁴ He also made two doors out of juniper wood, each having two leaves that turned in sockets. ³⁵ He carved cherubim, palm trees and open flowers on them and overlaid them with gold hammered evenly over the carvings.

³⁶ And he built the inner courtyard of three courses of dressed stone and one course of trimmed cedar beams.

³⁷ The foundation of the temple of the LORD was laid in the fourth year, in the month of Ziv. ³⁸ In the eleventh year in the month of Bul, the eighth month, the temple was finished in all its details according to its specifications. He had spent seven years building it.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Acts 12: 1-17

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

12 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. **2** He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. **3** When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. **4** After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

6 The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. **7** Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

8 Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. **9** Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. **10** They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

11 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. **13** Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. **14** When she recognised Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

15 "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. **17** Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

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.**

Light of revelation
To the Gentiles shown,
Light of Israel's glory
To the World made known.

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

Glory to the Father
And His Only Son,
and the Holy Spirit
Ever Three In One.

A sermon is preached

We think about our first HYMN...

- **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,

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard-seed, make it grow to your glory and the flourishing of your Kingdom; 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 & David.

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...

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou,
my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all! th'Immortal dies:
who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above
so free, so infinite his grace;
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
No condemnation now I dread;

Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Charles Wesley

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.**