

An Order for Evening Prayer on Trinity 8 - 2nd. August 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.

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven!
To his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.

Praise him! Praise him!
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Henry Francis Lyte

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 80

**Turn us again, O God; ♦ show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, ♦ you that led Joseph like a flock;

2 Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, ♦ before
Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

3 Stir up your mighty strength ♦ and come to our salvation.

4 **Turn us again, O God; ♦ show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.**

5 O Lord God of hosts, ♦ how long will you be angry at your people's
prayer?

6 You feed them with the bread of tears; ♦ you give them abundance of
tears to drink.

7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours, ♦ and our enemies
laugh us to scorn.

8 **Turn us again, O God of hosts; ♦ show the light of your
countenance, and we shall be saved.**

The First Reading

1 Kings 10: 1-13

10 When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions. **2** Arriving at Jerusalem with a very great caravan—with camels carrying spices, large quantities of gold, and precious stones—she came to Solomon and talked with him about all that she had on her mind. **3** Solomon

answered all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain to her. **4** When the queen of Sheba saw all the wisdom of Solomon and the palace he had built, **5** the food on his table, the seating of his officials, the attending servants in their robes, his cupbearers, and the burnt offerings he made at^[a] the temple of the LORD, she was overwhelmed.

6 She said to the king, “The report I heard in my own country about your achievements and your wisdom is true. **7** But I did not believe these things until I came and saw with my own eyes. Indeed, not even half was told me; in wisdom and wealth you have far exceeded the report I heard. **8** How happy your people must be! How happy your officials, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom! **9** Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on the throne of Israel. Because of the LORD's eternal love for Israel, he has made you king to maintain justice and righteousness.”

10 And she gave the king 120 talents^[b] of gold, large quantities of spices, and precious stones. Never again were so many spices brought in as those the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

11 (Hiram's ships brought gold from Ophir; and from there they brought great cargoes of almuqwood and precious stones. **12** The king used the almuqwood to make supports^[d] for the temple of the LORD and for the royal palace, and to make harps and lyres for the musicians. So much almuqwood has never been imported or seen since that day.)

13 King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba all she desired and asked for, besides what he had given her out of his royal bounty. Then she left and returned with her retinue to her own country.

Here ends the first lesson.

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

The Second Reading

Acts 13: 1-13

13 ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

⁴ The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵ When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

⁶ They travelled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, ⁷ who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. ⁸ But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. ⁹ Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, ¹⁰ "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? ¹¹ Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun."

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. ¹² When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

¹³ From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

Here ends the second lesson.

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

In our midweek readings we have been following the story of the first King of Israel, King Saul. Up until then the People of God had been living under a Theocracy - with Judges appointed by consensus of the people. The last of the Judges was the Prophet, Samuel, and although everyone agreed that Samuel had been an excellent Judge for the People, his sons (who it seems it was assumed would take over from Samuel when he died) - his sons were worthless fellows, and became the focus of a movement to appoint, not a Judge, but a King, like the rest of the nations around them.

Samuel was not happy, to say the least, but God told him to do as the People had requested and so Saul eventually becomes King. Upon his appointment Samuel does two things -

First he tells the People what having a King will mean - with Taxes, forced labour, armies to support, and so on.

Secondly Samuel recites to the new King and his people the responsibilities and duties of a King of God's People, as had been already recorded way back in the Law of Moses - 'And, when you have a King...' God had already made provision for this day, and so Moses had left this instruction and advice...

Way, way back in time, along with the Law of Moses had come the rationale - the reason why God had given them all this law - this 'Good Law' It was supposed to show the 'Nations' the greatness and wisdom of God through His People's obedience to it and the resulting blessings upon them as a result of this 'Good Law' The problem was that there had rarely, if ever, actually been a sustained period when this had been the case, not because the Law had failed, but because the People never really took it to heart.

But, ... - in our reading from 1 Kings tonight we find a record of about the only recorded time when things came together right and it happens during the reign of Solomon. Following in his father, David's footsteps, Solomon ruled as a King, yes, but under God and through the wisdom of the Law and the Wisdom God had rewarded Solomon with. So it is that when the Queen of Sheba (probably the lands of the Arabian Peninsula) comes to meet Solomon it is with the purpose of confirming the rumours she had heard - literally translated as '...the rumour of Solomon for the Name of the Lord...' - that is, that she had heard of the wonders of the reign of Solomon which was seen and understood as being down to the Wisdom and Goodness of his and his nation's God, YAHWEH.

On arrival the Queen gets the grand tour and an audience with the King, who she tested, probably with a series of riddles and puzzles and general enquiries into the wisdom of the day. At the end she is literally left breathless! When she recovers her composure she says -

'May the LORD your God be blessed, Who has desired you to set you on the throne of Israel through the Lord's love for Israel forever'

Sadly this state of affairs did not last very long. Solomon would always be blessed by God, but in the end this blessing is continued not because of Solomon's faith, but in honour of God's promises made with David.

But let us not dwell on that failure tonight too much. Even though Solomon did ultimately fail God's promise to David never did fail, encompassing as it does the promise of a King from David's line whose throne was to be eternal. We, in our turn, have become heirs to that promise through Christ, and through it comes that same purpose - of bringing glory to God through our following of His Good Law.

But, you might rightly say, we are not under that law! And you would be correct, and yet wrong! Look at what the Queen of Sheba said all those centuries ago was the foundation of God's Good Law for His People...

'...through the Lord's love for Israel...'

God's promise to David was a promise made in Love and out of Love for this 'Man after God's own heart'

And that same Law of Love would find its outworking many hundreds of years later when, although not recognised by His now people, the King would come to Jerusalem, and in love endure the cross to seal that Love for you and for me by bearing the cost of our failures in Himself. The 'Old Law' was all about being seen to be clean in God's sight. Before returning to His Father's side that King left his instructions for a new commandment of Love, but one which still carries the same purpose and reason - that His Love in our lives as we love the World in response to His Love for us will reflect to that World the Goodness of God and the Wisdom of His Love that loves the unlovely and makes us clean in His sight.

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,

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone; 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 and Margaret.

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 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...

Restore, O Lord,
the honour of your name,
in works of sovereign power
come shake the earth again,
that all may see,
and come with reverent fear
to the living God,
whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
in all the earth your fame,
and in our time revive
the church that bears your name.
And in your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
where we are hard and cold,
in your refiner's fire:
come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
and evil crouches near,
still our living God
is reigning, he is reigning here.

Graham Kendrick and Chris Rolinson © 1981 Thankyou Music

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.**