

# *Evening Prayer March 25th with readings for Sunday March 29th*

## *Lent*

### **Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,  
**according to your judgement give us life.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,  
that freed from the misery of sin and shame  
we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me  
with many a care opprest;  
let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.**

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

*George the Sinner, tr: A W Chatfield*

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.

**Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

### *Psalmody*

#### **Psalm 130**

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
- 2 **Lord, hear my voice!**  
**Let your ears be attentive**  
**to the voice of my supplications!**
- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?

- 4 **But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.**
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;
- 6 **my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.**
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!  
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.
- 8 **It is he who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.**

**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.**

## *Canticle*

**Christ committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips.**

- 1 Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example,  
that you should follow in his steps.
- 2 **He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips,  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.**
- 3 When he suffered, he did not threaten,  
but he trusted himself to God who judges justly.
- 4 **Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**
- 5 By his wounds, you have been healed,  
for you were straying like sheep,  
but have now returned  
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**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.**

**Christ committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips.**

## *Scripture Reading*

*John 11:1-45*

The Death of Lazarus

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never

die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

### Jesus Weeps

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

### Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Forsake me not, O Lord;

be not far from me, O my God.

**Forsake me not, O Lord;**

**be not far from me, O my God.**

Make haste to help me,

O Lord of my salvation.

**Be not far from me, O my God.**

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

Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.

*from Psalm 38*

### *Gospel Canticle*

**Come, let us return to the Lord, for our God will richly pardon.**

- 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*

**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.**

**Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for our God will richly pardon.**

# Prayers

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*Silence may be kept.*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God,  
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

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. **Amen.**  
Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**