

Evening Prayer on Wednesday, 20 October 2021

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense, •
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; •
hear my voice when I cry to you.**

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, •
and guard the door of my lips;

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense, •
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; •
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

**But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God; •
in you I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.**

**Let my prayer rise before you as incense, •
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Psalm 141.1-4b, 8

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

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.**

Psalm 136:1-9,23-26

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever.

2 Give thanks to the God of gods, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever.

3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

4 Who alone does great wonders, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

7 Who made the great lights, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

8 The sun to rule the day, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

24 And delivered us from our enemies, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;

25 Who gives food to all creatures, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever.

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever.

*Remember us, O God, and shape our history,
form our inward eyes
to see the shadow of the life-giving cross
in the turbulence of our time;
for his sake who died for all,
Christ our Lord.*

**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.**

2 Kings 23.4-25

The king commanded the high priest Hilkiyah, the priests of the second order, and the guardians of the threshold, to bring out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels made for Baal, for Asherah, and for all the host of heaven; he burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron, and carried their ashes to Bethel. He deposed the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had ordained to make offerings in the high places at the cities of Judah and around Jerusalem; those also who made offerings to Baal, to the sun, the moon, the constellations, and all the host of the heavens. He brought out the image of Asherah from the house of the Lord, outside Jerusalem, to the Wadi Kidron, burned it at the Wadi Kidron, beat it to dust and threw the dust of it upon the graves of the common people. He broke down the houses of the male temple prostitutes that were in the house of the Lord, where the women did weaving for Asherah. He brought all the priests out of the towns of Judah, and defiled the high places where the priests had made offerings, from

Geba to Beer-sheba; he broke down the high places of the gates that were at the entrance of the gate of Joshua the governor of the city, which were on the left at the gate of the city. The priests of the high places, however, did not come up to the altar of the Lord in Jerusalem, but ate unleavened bread among their kindred. He defiled Topheth, which is in the valley of Ben-hinnom, so that no one would make a son or a daughter pass through fire as an offering to Molech. He removed the horses that the kings of Judah had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance to the house of the Lord, by the chamber of the eunuch Nathan-melech, which was in the precincts; then he burned the chariots of the sun with fire. The altars on the roof of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars that Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the Lord, he pulled down from there and broke in pieces, and threw the rubble into the Wadi Kidron. The king defiled the high places that were east of Jerusalem, to the south of the Mount of Destruction, which King Solomon of Israel had built for Astarte the abomination of the Sidonians, for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. He broke the pillars in pieces, cut down the sacred poles, and covered the sites with human bones.

Moreover, the altar at Bethel, the high place erected by Jeroboam son of Nebat, who caused Israel to sin—he pulled down that altar along with the high place. He burned the high place, crushing it to dust; he also burned the sacred pole. As Josiah turned, he saw the tombs there on the mount; and he sent and took the bones out of the tombs, and burned them on the altar, and defiled it, according to the word of the Lord that the man of God proclaimed, when Jeroboam stood by the altar at the festival; he turned and looked up at the tomb of the man of God who had predicted these things. Then he said, 'What is that monument that I see?' The people of the city told him, 'It is the tomb of the man of God who came from Judah and predicted these things that you have done against the altar at Bethel.' He said, 'Let him rest; let no one move his bones.' So they let his bones alone, with the bones of the prophet who came out of Samaria. Moreover, Josiah removed all the shrines of the high places that were in the towns of Samaria, which kings of Israel had made, provoking the Lord to anger; he did to them just as he had done at Bethel. He slaughtered on the altars all the priests of the high places who were there, and burned human bones on them. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

The king commanded all the people, 'Keep the passover to the Lord your God as prescribed in this book of the covenant.' No such passover had been kept since the days of the judges who judged Israel, even during all the days of the kings of Israel and of the kings of Judah; but in the eighteenth year of King Josiah this passover was kept to the Lord in Jerusalem.

Moreover, Josiah did away with the mediums, wizards, teraphim, idols, and all the abominations that were seen in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, so that he established the words of the law that were written in the book that the priest Hilkiyah had found in the house of the Lord. Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; nor did any like him arise after him.

Rejoice and be glad for you are the light of the world, and great is your reward in heaven.

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, ♦
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Blessed are those who mourn, ♦
for they shall be comforted.

3 Blessed are the meek, ♦
for they shall inherit the earth.

4 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, ♦
for they shall be satisfied.

5 Blessed are the merciful, ♦
for they shall obtain mercy.

6 Blessed are the pure in heart, ♦
for they shall see God.

7 Blessed are the peacemakers, ♦
for they shall be called children of God.

8 Blessed are those who suffer persecution for righteousness' sake, ♦
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3-10

**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.**

Rejoice and be glad for you are the light of the world, and great is your reward in heaven.

1 Timothy 3

The saying is sure: whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task. Now a bishop must be above reproach, married only once, temperate, sensible, respectable, hospitable, an apt teacher, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, keeping his children submissive and respectful in every way—for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may be puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace and the snare of the devil.

Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth. Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

And afterwards receive me with glory.

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

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

from Psalm 73

Remember your promise of mercy, to Abraham and his children for ever.

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: •
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation •
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations •
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

**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.**

Remember your promise of mercy, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ for peace

¶ for individuals and their needs

The Collect

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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