

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 17 August 2025, The Ninth Sunday After Trinity

*If you wish to join in the service, then the words in **bold** are to be said together.
Please join in with the Psalms and Canticles by reciting each one in its entirety.*

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

You founded the earth in the beginning
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
and in these last days you have spoken to us
in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
your Spirit ever renew our lives
and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalm 82

¹God has taken his stand in the council of heaven; ♦
in the midst of the gods he gives judgement:

²‘How long will you judge unjustly ♦
and show such favour to the wicked?’

³‘You were to judge the weak and the orphan; ♦
defend the right of the humble and needy;

⁴‘Rescue the weak and the poor; ♦
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

⁵‘They have no knowledge or wisdom;
they walk on still in darkness: ♦
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶‘Therefore I say that though you are gods ♦
and all of you children of the Most High,

⁷‘Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals ♦
and fall like one of their princes.’

⁸Arise, O God and judge the earth, ♦
for it is you that shall take all nations for your possession.

**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.**

First Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

²⁹By faith the people of Israel passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – ³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented – ³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Canticle

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

¹Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, ♦
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.

²Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; ♦
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.

³Riches and honour come from you ♦
and you rule over all.

⁴In your hand are power and might; ♦
yours it is to give power and strength to all.

⁵And now we give you thanks, our God, ♦
and praise your glorious name.

⁶For all things come from you, ♦
and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b

**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.**

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

Second Reading: Luke 12:49-56

Jesus said to his disciples: ⁴⁹‘I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,

mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens.

⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Responsory

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

And Christ shall give you light.

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.

Set your minds on things that are above,
not on things that are on the earth.

And Christ shall give you light.

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,
and Christ shall give you light.**

from Colossians 3

Gospel Cantic: Benedictus

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

¹Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

²He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

³Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,

⁴To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

⁵This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

⁶Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

⁷And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

⁸To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

⁹In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

¹⁰To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1.68-79*

**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.**

**You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of your servant David.**

Intercessions

Creator God, your world longs to live in peace.

We pray for your healing peace
for countries at war with one another . . .
for communities where there is conflict . . .
for the victims of past and present wars . . .

Your world longs to live in peace,
but not peace at any price.

We pray for those who stir up dissension
by campaigning for justice;
by championing the poor and oppressed;
by challenging the wealthy and powerful.
In your love and mercy: hear our prayer.

Saviour God, humanity longs to live in peace.

We pray for your healing peace
for those racked by guilt or regret;
for those caught up in turbulent relationships;
for those burdened by illness or sorrow.

Humanity longs to live in peace,
but not peace at any price.

We pray for those who stir up dissension
by questioning the ways of society;
by being open and honest;
by searching for the truth.

In your love and mercy: hear our prayer.

Spirit of God, your church longs to live in peace.
We pray for your healing peace
between denominations;
within individual churches;
in our own hearts.
Your church longs to live in peace,
but not peace at any price.
We pray for those who stir up dissension
disturbing us with new visions and ideas;
criticising our apathy and complacency;
provoking us to think afresh about our calling.
In your love and mercy: hear our prayer. **Amen.**

Collect

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

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Conclusion

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.**