

Morning Prayer Advent
Monday, 15 December 2025

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

All

that we may behold your power and glory.

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

In your tender compassion
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.
As we look for your coming among us this day,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All

Blessed be God for ever.

The Word of God

Psalm 24

1

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, ♦
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

2

For he has founded it upon the seas ♦
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

3

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, ♦
or who can rise up in his holy place?'

4

'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, ♦
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;

5

'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, ♦
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

6

Such is the company of those who seek him, ♦
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

7

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

8

‘Who is the King of glory?’ ♦
‘The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.’

9

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

10

‘Who is this King of glory?’ ♦
‘The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.’

All

**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.**

This opening prayer may be said

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.

All

Amen.

All

**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.**

Isaiah 38.1-8, 21-22

In those days Hezekiah became sick and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz came to him, and said to him, 'Thus says the Lord: Set your house in order, for you shall die; you shall not recover.' Then Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the Lord: 'Remember now, O Lord, I implore you, how I have walked before you in faithfulness with a whole heart, and have done what is good in your sight.' And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Then the word of the Lord came to Isaiah: 'Go and say to Hezekiah, Thus says the Lord, the God of your

ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life. I will deliver you and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria, and defend this city.

‘This is the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing that he has promised: See, I will make the shadow cast by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz turn back ten steps.’ So the sun turned back on the dial the ten steps by which it had declined.

Now Isaiah had said, ‘Let them take a lump of figs, and apply it to the boil, so that he may recover.’ Hezekiah also had said, ‘What is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the Lord?’

All

**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.**

All

**Lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings.**

Matthew 16.13-end

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others

Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’ But he turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain

the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

Short Reflection

There is a striking contrast between the first part of today's gospel reading and the second part. In the first part, Simon Peter shows great insight into the identity of Jesus, **‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’**. In response, Jesus gives Peter a hugely significant leadership role in his growing community of disciples. Peter is to be the rock on which Jesus will build his church. Peter will have authority in the church, symbolised by the keys. The language of binding and loosening suggests this is primarily a teaching authority; he will have authority to declare which elements of Jesus' teaching are binding and which can be interpreted more loosely. There is no other person in the gospels to whom Jesus gives such a significant role. However, in the second part of the gospel reading, this same Peter who is to be the rock is declared by Jesus to be an obstacle, a stumbling block, in his path, and he is addressed by Jesus as Satan. It is hard to imagine a greater fall from grace in such a short space of time. What had changed? Peter's inspired insight into Jesus' identity as the Son of living God had given way to

Peter's rebuke of Jesus when Jesus declared that the Son of the living God would also be the suffering Son of Man who would be put to death by his enemies. Peter's fall from grace reminds us that we have to allow Jesus to tell us who he really is, rather than trying to impose on Jesus who we think he should be. Jesus is both the glorious Son of God (Divine) and the suffering Son of Man (Human). God with skin on.

We cannot fully understand Jesus apart from the cross. As Son of God, both divine and human, he revealed God's unconditional love for all, a love that would cost him not less than everything. Such a love makes us truly beloved, but also calls on us to love others in the same self-emptying way as the Lord has loved us.

from Romans 13

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,

All: for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,

All: for the night is far spent.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light,

All: for the day is at hand.

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh,

All

for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.

All

**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.**

Refrain:

All

**Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.**

Prayers

Everlasting God, as we continue to prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for time to be quiet where we can, through prayer and reflection, appreciate the wonder of your love. As we revisit the story of Jesus' birth through our Advent worship deepen our joy on this and invigorate our prayers and our praise and help it to challenge the way that we live our lives.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, may we like Mary worship in such a way that our joy in you grows through the recognition of the countless ways we have benefitted from your blessings throughout our lives and the goodness and mercy that you show to us despite our shortcomings. Help us to pass on our faith to the next generation of our families that they too might praise with the same joy that Mary did.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for the nations of the world especially where pride interferes with power to produce tyranny, where the divide between rich and poor is beyond imagination and where people have been hungry for so long that many have never experienced a satisfying and sustaining meal.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father God we pray for those whose children cannot take part in Christmas celebrations because of the expense; those who put themselves seriously into debt attempting to meet expectations; those who may have to use food banks for a Christmas meal. Help us to do all that we can through our prayers and through our giving to the local and international charities that are helping the less fortunate.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we raise before you the sick and the suffering, that you would show the strength of your arm and scatter everything which prevents them from enjoying health and wholeness in body, mind and spirit. In a moment of silence, we bring before you now all those on our hearts who are suffering.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Mighty God, we rejoice for those who now experience the joy of heaven according to the promises you made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to us his descendants, forever.

We pray for those who have died recently and for those known to us whose anniversary occurs at this time.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth and the power of his Gospel.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Collect of the day is said

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you: grant that the
ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom
of the just, that at your second coming to judge the
world we may be found an acceptable people in your
sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Awaiting his coming in glory,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All

**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.**

The Conclusion

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.

All: Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

