

The Benefice of Chew Valley East

Morning Prayer for Sunday 26 July 2026, The Eighth 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, creator of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your dawn renews the face of the earth
bringing light and life to all creation,
may we rejoice in this day you have made;
as we wake refreshed from the depths of sleep,
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.
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 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your testimonies are wonderful; ♦
therefore my soul keeps them.

¹³⁰The opening of your word gives light; ♦
it gives understanding to the simple.

¹³¹I open my mouth and draw in my breath, ♦
as I long for your commandments.

¹³²Turn to me and be gracious to me, ♦
as is your way with those who love your name.

¹³³Order my steps by your word, ♦
and let no wickedness have dominion over me.

¹³⁴Redeem me from earthly oppressors ♦
so that I may keep your commandments.

¹³⁵Show the light of your countenance upon your servant ♦
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶My eyes run down with streams of water, ♦
because the wicked do not keep your law.

**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: Romans 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

³⁶As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.'

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, ³⁹nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' ³³He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

⁴⁴The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' ⁵²And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

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 Canticle: 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

To the words: In your wisdom:
Please respond: **enlighten all who call on you.**

Listening God,
we ask for the help of your Spirit as we come to you,
for we do not know how to pray as we ought.
In your wisdom: **enlighten all who call on you.**

We pray for those who have been disappointed
by the answers given to their prayers;
who, like Jacob working for Rachel,
have prayed for one thing and received another.
In your wisdom: **enlighten all who call on you.**

We pray for those finding it hard
to know what they should pray for;
who, like Solomon, know that you will help them
but have to decide what is most needed.
In your wisdom: **enlighten all who call on you.**

We pray for those who cannot believe
that you are still listening out for them;
who are lost in the darkness of suffering
of sorrow or despair.
In your wisdom: **enlighten all who call on you.**

We pray that you will challenge and help your children
to make the time to come to you in prayer;
to be prepared to dig into their lives
to find the buried treasure of your presence.
In your wisdom: **enlighten all who call on you.**

We pray that we may not lose patience
with the slow and secret ways of the kingdom;
that we may not discard prayer in favour of action
and lose our sense of spiritual direction.

In your wisdom: **enlighten all who call on you.**

Listening God, teach us how to pray,
that we and all the world may be transformed by your love. **Amen.**

Collect

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.**

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.

*Text copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005.
The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from The New Revised Standard Version Anglicized Edition, copyright ©1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

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.