

☩ Morning Prayer

Easter Season

Thursday, 18 April 2024

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

Let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt

and led them to freedom in the promised land,

so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness

and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation,

rejoice in this new day you have made,

and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or the Easter Anthems

1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: ☩

so let us celebrate the feast,

2 not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: ☩

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8

3Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ☐
death has no more dominion over him.

4In dying he died to sin once for all: ☐
in living he lives to God.

5See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ☐
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9-11

6Christ has been raised from the dead: ☐
the first fruits of those who sleep.

7For as by man came death: ☐
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

8for as in Adam all die: ☐
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15.20-22

AllGlory 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.

AllAmen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 136

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;

10 Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, □
for his mercy endures for ever;

11 And brought out Israel from among them, □
for his mercy endures for ever;

12 With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, □
for his mercy endures for ever;

13 Who divided the Red Sea in two, □
for his mercy endures for ever;

14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

15 But Pharaoh and his host he overthrew in the Red Sea, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

16 Who led his people through the wilderness, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

17 Who smote great kings, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

18 And slew mighty kings, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

20 And Og, the king of Bashan, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

21 And gave away their land for a heritage, □

for his mercy endures for ever;

22 A heritage for Israel his servant, □

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.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

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.

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.

Exodus 25.1-22

The Lord said to Moses: Tell the Israelites to take for me an offering; from all whose hearts prompt them to give you shall receive the offering for me. This is the offering that you shall receive from them: gold, silver, and bronze, blue, purple, and crimson yarns and fine linen, goats' hair, tanned rams' skins, fine leather, acacia wood, oil for the lamps, spices for the anointing-oil and for the fragrant incense, onyx stones and gems to be set in the ephod and for the breastpiece. And have them make me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. In accordance with all that I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

They shall make an ark of acacia wood; it shall be two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside you shall overlay it, and you shall make a moulding of gold upon it all round. You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on one side of it, and two rings on the other side. You shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, by which to carry the ark. The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. You shall put into the ark the covenant that I shall give you.

Then you shall make a mercy-seat of pure gold; two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its width. You shall make two cherubim of gold; you shall make them of hammered work, at the two ends of the mercy-seat. Make one cherub at one end, and one cherub at the other; of one piece with the mercy-seat you shall make the cherubim at its two ends. The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy-seat with their wings. They shall face each other; the faces of the cherubim shall be turned towards the mercy-seat. You shall put the mercy-seat on the top of the ark; and in the ark you shall put the covenant that I shall give you. There I will meet you, and from above the mercy-seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the covenant, I will deliver to you all my commands for the Israelites.

Canticle

The Song of Moses and Miriam, or another suitable canticle, for example, [number 23 \(page 574\)](#) or [number 32 \(page 583\)](#), may be said

Refrain:

AllIn your unfailing love, O Lord,
you lead the people whom you have redeemed. Alleluia.

1I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, □
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

2The Lord is my strength and my song □
and has become my salvation.

3This is my God whom I will praise, □
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

4The Lord is a warrior, □
the Lord is his name.

5Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: □
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

6At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; □
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

7In your unfailing love, O Lord, □
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

8And by your invincible strength □
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

9You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, □
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

Exodus 15.1b-3, 6, 10, 13, 17

AllGlory 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.

AllIn your unfailing love, O Lord,
you lead the people whom you have redeemed. Alleluia.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

Luke 1.57-end

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,

might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

Death is swallowed up in victory.
AllWhere, O death, is your sting?
Christ is risen from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
AllDeath is swallowed up in victory.
The trumpet will sound
and the dead shall be raised.
AllWhere, O death, is your sting?
We shall not all sleep,
but we shall be changed.
AllDeath is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your sting?

from 1 Corinthians 15

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,
or [The Song of Christ's Glory \(page 619\)](#) may be said

Refrain:

AllThe Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

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

AllGlory 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:

AllThe Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

- ¶ for the day and its tasks
- ¶ for the world and its needs
- ¶ for the Church and her life

Prayers may include the following concerns from the [cycle on pages 364–365](#)

- ¶ The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord
- ¶ God’s creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care
- ¶ Those in despair and darkness, that they may find the hope and light of Christ
- ¶ Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection
- ¶ Prisoners and captives

A form of prayer found [on page 382](#) may be used.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

(or)

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples

with the sight of the risen Lord:

give us such knowledge of his presence with us,

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;

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.

AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in God's new creation,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

AllOur 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.

(or)

Rejoicing in God's new creation,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

AllOur 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 the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

AllAmen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

AllThanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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