



**Morning Prayer**  
**Remembrance Sunday**  
**8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**



# An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

8 November 2020

Remembrance Sunday



## Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

## Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'  
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Lord God,**  
**we have sinned against you;**  
**we have done evil in your sight.**  
**We are sorry and repent.**  
**Have mercy on us according to your love.**  
**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**  
**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore to us the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,  
**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
creator and redeemer of all;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world.  
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.  
Now, through the deep waters of death,  
you have brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts  
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and 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**

## **Psalmody**

*Psalm 70*

- 1 O God, make speed to save me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me.
- 2 Let those who seek my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
let them be turned back and disgraced  
who wish me evil.
- 3 Let those who mock and deride me  
turn back because of their shame.
- 4 But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say always, 'Great is the Lord.'
- 5 As for me, I am poor and needy;  
come to me quickly, O God.
- 6 You are my help and my deliverer;  
O Lord, do not delay.

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**

*Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16*

- <sup>12</sup>Wisdom is radiant and unfading,  
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,  
and is found by those who seek her.
- <sup>13</sup>She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
- <sup>14</sup>One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,  
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
- <sup>15</sup>To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,

and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,  
16because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,  
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,  
and meets them in every thought.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

## **Old Testament Canticle**

### **A Song of David**

*1 Chronicles 29.10b-13, 14b*

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,  
for yours is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;  
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,  
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you  
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might;  
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God,  
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For 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.

## Second Reading

*Matthew 25.1-13*

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>‘The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” <sup>12</sup>But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

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.**

# **Gospel Canticle**

## **Benedictus**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To 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.

**Sermon** (There is a reflection at the end of this booklet)

## **The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**



## **Prayers**

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For people who cannot gather together but who are prevented  
from travelling, or forced into isolation...

For people who walk alone, and all who are housebound, lonely or  
afraid at this time....

Lord that you will walk alongside them and deliver them safely  
from all their troubles.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For people who have lost any vision of wind or fire; whose faith seems to be damaged beyond repair, who can see no point in the future.....

Lord that you will set them free and set their feet on the road that they might find their way.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For people who receive mocking and scorn for their faith.....

For those who are persecuted and imprisoned, laughed at or tormented....

Lord that you may give them courage, patience and endurance to walk the narrow path that leads to eternal life.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For people who are sick and suffering and all those who care for them.....

For those who have died, especially as a result of the current pandemic....

For all with power, dedication and expertise who are working to bring us into a brighter tomorrow....

Lord give them a hunger for justice and a passion for change.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

For us who are your church who at this time, though we are apart, may still enjoy togetherness.....

Lord that we may find new ways to come together and live the Gospel in our lives, and be inspired to proclaim our faith....

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

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

*The Collect is said.*

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
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 is said*

**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

## The Blessing

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

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*During our Zoom service we will as usual on Remembrance Sunday be holding an act of remembrance which will be in the following format:*

1 The Exhortation is recited:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.*

2 The Last Post is sounded.

3 The Two Minute Silence is observed.

4 Reveille is sounded.

5 The Kohima Epitaph is recited:

*When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.*

## Remembrance Sunday

By the Revd Andy Griffiths

○ God, make speed to save us; ○ Lord, make haste to help us.

They're taken from the first words of Psalm 70, and they're among the most frequently spoken words in the Bible. At Roman Catholic Vespers and Anglican Evening Prayer, Mid-day prayer and night prayer, day by day, year by year, century by century. ○ God, make speed to save us; ○ Lord, make haste to help us.

They were used in the trenches: they're bringing up the heavy artillery, ○ God, make speed to save us. They were used in the Second World War: incoming at 8 o'clock ○ Lord, make haste to help us. I bet that before this day is out, small groups of soldiers in Afghanistan will gather in a dusty corner with a battered prayer book, saying ○ God, make speed to save us. And that's fitting, because this is a battlefield Psalm by a battlefield poet – the poet is facing people who want to kill him, who desire his ruin, who spot him and take aim. But it's deliberately vague enough to be used in different kinds of front-line. I bet there will be medics this evening, at the beginning of a long night-shift, finding Common Worship Evening Prayer on their phones and as they contemplate another 6 hours in PPE saying ○ Lord, make haste to help us.

There's a word in Psalm 70 which particularly struck me, but when I tell you what it is, you'll probably think it's no big deal. The word is always. It's in verse 4. It's not just "let those who love your salvation say, Great is the Lord!" It's "let those who love your salvation always say, Great is the Lord!" What, always? Yes, always. Not necessarily in a happy tone of voice, sometimes through tears, sometimes silently, sometimes mouthed behind a visor, sometimes through gritted teeth, but always, great is the Lord.

The Somali poet Warsan Shire, also a battlefield poet like the author of our Psalm, has written this:

**“later that night  
i held an atlas in my lap  
ran my fingers across the whole world  
and whispered  
where does it hurt?**

**it answered  
everywhere  
everywhere  
everywhere.”**

**Everywhere, everywhere, everywhere it hurts. And yet  
always, always, always great is the Lord.**

The Hungarian writer Gyorgy Mikes once met an English tourist in Budapest. “Do you like it here?” asked Mikes. “Yes, but there are too many foreigners.” “Excuse me, but in Budapest these people aren’t foreign, you’re the foreigner.” “Foreign? My dear Sir, I’m not foreign, I’m British. Truth is not dependent on geography”.

Well, truth is not dependent on coronavirus, on military strength, on the heartbreak you may be facing. And it is precisely because we believe the truth “Great is the Lord” – always, always, always - that we pray “O Lord, make haste to help us”. It’s an urgent psalm, isn’t it? So obviously it’s ok to be urgent in prayer. It doesn’t have to be all “merciful Father”, it can be “O God, O Lord”. And that’s alright. Four times in this Psalm we ask God to move more quickly. “O God, make speed to save us; O Lord, make haste to help us... come to me quickly, O God... O Lord, do not delay”.

I don’t know where he’s supposed to be coming from, this God. Downwards? Backwards from a peaceful future? The poem doesn’t say. But wherever God is, it feels like God isn’t where God needs to be, which is right here, right now and we need God here. I think God is pleased with our urgency, because it shows we’ve been dislodged from our smug complacency and are admitting we

really, really need God. And God – well, Jesus showed us how God feels about people. Jesus saw the mess the world was in, hurting everywhere everywhere everywhere and he didn't hang back he threw himself at the planet saying let me go there, whatever the cost, whatever happens to me I want to be with them, always, always, always.