

Evening Prayer, Wednesday, 25 December 2024, Christmas Day

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

You laid the foundation of the earth
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

HYMN

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 8

1 *O Lord our governor, ♦*

how glorious is your name in all the world!

2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised ♦

out of the mouths of babes at the breast.

3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes, ♦

that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ♦

the moon and the stars that you have ordained,

5 What is man, that you should be mindful of him; ♦

the son of man, that you should seek him out?

6 You have made him little lower than the angels ♦

and crown him with glory and honour.

7 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands ♦

and put all things under his feet,

8 All sheep and oxen, ♦

even the wild beasts of the field,

9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea ♦

and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

10 *O Lord our governor, ♦*

how glorious is your name in all the world!

**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.**

Canticle

A Song of Redemption

**Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

1 The Father has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, ♦
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son;

2 In whom we have redemption, ♦
the forgiveness of our sins.

3 He is the image of the invisible God, ♦
the firstborn of all creation.

4 For in him all things were created, ♦
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

5 All things were created through him and for him, ♦
he is before all things and in him all things hold together.

6 He is the head of the body, the Church, ♦
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.

7 In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell; ♦
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things.

Colossians 1.13-18a, 19, 20a

**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.**

**Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

Scripture Reading

Philippians 2.5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Magnificat

**When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night was in the midst of her swift course:
from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens,
leapt your almighty Word.**

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm ♦
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things ♦
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, ♦
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**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.**

**When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night was in the midst of her swift course:
from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens,
leapt your almighty Word.**

Prayers

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty God,
you have given us your only-begotten Son
to take our nature upon him
and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin:
grant that we, who have been born again
and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
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.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our 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 God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.