

Evening Prayer, Sunday, 18 May 2025, the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

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

Psalm 98

The Lord has made known his salvation.

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, * ♦
for he has done marvellous things.

2 His own right hand and his holy arm * ♦
have won for him the victory.

3 The Lord has made known his salvation; * ♦
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; * ♦
break into singing and make music.

6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre, * ♦
with the lyre and the voice of melody.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
sound praises before the Lord, the King.

8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, * ♦
the world and all that dwell upon it.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands * ♦
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world * ♦
and the peoples with equity.

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.

The Lord has made known his salvation.

Canticle

God raised Christ from the dead, the Lamb without spot or stain. Alleluia.

1 Blessed be the God and Father * ♦
of our Lord Jesus Christ!

2 By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope * ♦
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

3 Into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, * ♦
kept in heaven for you,

4 Who are being protected by the power of God through faith, * ♦
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

5 You were ransomed from the futile ways of your ancestors * ♦
not with perishable things like silver or gold

6 But with the precious blood of Christ * ♦
like that of a lamb without spot or stain.

7 Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, * ♦
so that your faith and hope are set on God.

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.

God raised Christ from the dead, the Lamb without spot or stain. Alleluia.

Scripture Reading Daniel 6. [1-5] 6-23

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole kingdom, and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave

account, so that the king might suffer no loss. Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. The men said, 'We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.']

So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, 'O King Darius, live for ever! All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counsellors and the governors, are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.' Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open towards Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, 'O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?' The king answered, 'The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.' Then they responded to the king, 'Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.'

When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, 'Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.'

Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!' A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?' Daniel then said to the king, 'O king, live for ever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.' Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

- 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.

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.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

Prayers

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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 God's new creation, 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.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.