

Evening Prayer Sunday, 9 November 2025 The Third Sunday before Advent

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom.

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 40

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

- 1 I waited patiently for the Lord; ♦
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He brought me out of the roaring pit, out of the mire and clay; ♦
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.
- 3 He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; ♦
many shall see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.
- 4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, ♦
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.
- 5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God. How great your designs for us! ♦
There is none that can be compared with you.
- 6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them ♦
they would be more than I am able to express.
- 7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire ♦
but my ears you have opened;
- 8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; ♦
then said I: 'Lo, I come.
- 9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me that I should do your will, O my God; ♦
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'
- 10 I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; ♦
behold, I did not restrain my lips, and that, O Lord, you know.
- 11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; ♦
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth from the great congregation.

- 12 Do not withhold your compassion from me, O Lord; ♦
let your love and your faithfulness always preserve me,
- 13 For innumerable troubles have come about me;
my sins have overtaken me so that I cannot look up; ♦
they are more in number than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me.
- 14 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; ♦
O Lord, make haste to help me.
- 15 Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed who seek after my life to destroy it; ♦
let them be driven back and put to shame who wish me evil.
- 16 Let those who heap insults upon me ♦
be desolate because of their shame.
- 17 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; ♦
let those who love your salvation say always, 'The Lord is great.'
- 18 Though I am poor and needy, ♦
the Lord cares for me.
- 19 You are my helper and my deliverer; ♦
O my God, make no 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.**

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

Canticle

**We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

- 1 We have come before God's holy mountain, ♦
to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.
- 2 We have come before countless angels making festival, ♦
before the assembly of the firstborn citizens of heaven.
- 3 We have come before God, who is judge of all, ♦
before the spirits of the just made perfect.
- 4 We have come before Jesus, ♦
the mediator of the new covenant.
- 5 We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken: ♦
so let us give thanks and offer to God acceptable worship,
- 6 Full of reverence and awe; ♦
for our God is a consuming fire.

**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.**

**We have come before the throne of God
to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**

Scripture Reading 1 Kings 3.1-15

Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt; he took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David, until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem. The people were sacrificing at the high places, however, because no house had yet been built for the name of the LORD.

Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David; only, he sacrificed and offered incense at the high places. The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, 'Ask what I should give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honour all your life; no other king shall compare with you. If you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your life.'

Then Solomon awoke; it had been a dream. He came to Jerusalem, where he stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. He offered up burnt-offerings and offerings of well-being, and provided a feast for all his servants.

Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat

The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

- 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 righteous will shine like the sun
in the kingdom of their Father.**

Prayers

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

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
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 Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,
bring us to reign with him in glory.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.