



EVENING PRAYER FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 27th December 2020
The First Sunday of Christmas

OPENING RESPONSES:

○ Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 130 and 131

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, ○ Lord *
Lord, hear my voice.

○ let thine ears consider well *
the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss *
○ Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee *
therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him *
in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord *
before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

○ Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy *
and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel *
from all his sins.

Lord, I am not high-minded *
I have no proud looks.

I do not exercise myself in great matters *
which are too high for me.

But I refrain my soul, and keep it low, like as a child that is weaned from his mother *
yea, my soul is even as a weaned child.

○ Israel, trust in the Lord *
from this time forth for evermore.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

MAGNIFICAT:

**My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

**He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.**

**Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 1:9-20

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

NUNC DIMITTIS:

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation.
Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people.
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done,

In earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil. Amen.

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

○ Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

○ Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, ○ Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by the Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

○ God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, ○ Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Pause for **SILENT REFLECTION**

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Hymns suitable for use at home:

ICH 146

A great and mighty wonder:
redemption drawing near!
The virgin bears the infant,
the Prince of Peace is here!

*Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth. Amen.'*

The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high;
the shepherds hear the anthem
as glory fills the sky.

The angels sing the story:
rejoice, O distant lands;
you valleys, forests, mountains,
and oceans, clap your hands!

He comes to save all nations:
let all now hear his word!
Approach and bring him worship,
the Saviour and the Lord!

Words: after St. Germanus (633-732) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66) altd.

Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN German traditional carol melody harmony based on setting by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

ICH 691

Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease:
Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.

All your Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.

This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.

Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease:
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b.1926) based on the Canticle 'Nunc Dimittis'

Tune: PASTOR PASTORUM Friedrich Silcher (1789-1860)

Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.

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