



EVENING PRAYER FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 17th January 2021
The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

OPENING RESPONSES:

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

O God, make speed to save us.
O 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: 89

My song shall be alway of the loving kindness of the Lord *
with my mouth will I ever be shewing thy truth from one generation to another.

For I have said, Mercy shall be set up for ever *
thy truth shalt thou stablish in the heavens.

I have made a covenant with my chosen *
I have sworn unto David my servant;

Thy seed will I stablish for ever *
and set up thy throne from one generation to another.

O Lord, the very heavens shall praise thy wondrous works *
and thy truth in the congregation of the saints.

For who is he among the clouds *
that shall be compared unto the Lord?

And what is he among the gods *
that shall be like unto the Lord?

God is very greatly to be feared in the council of the saints *
and to be had in reverence of all them that are round about him.

O Lord God of hosts, who is like unto thee *
thy truth, most mighty Lord, is on every side.

Thou rulest the raging of the sea *
thou stillest the waves thereof when they arise.

Thou hast subdued Egypt, and destroyed it *
thou hast scattered thine enemies abroad with thy mighty arm.

The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine *
thou hast laid the foundation of the round world, and all that therein is.

Thou hast made the north and the south *
Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy Name.

Thou hast a mighty arm *
strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand.

Righteousness and equity are the habitation of thy seat *
mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Blessed is the people, O Lord, that can rejoice in thee *
they shall walk in the light of thy countenance.

Their delight shall be daily in thy Name *
and in thy righteousness shall they make their boast.

For thou art the glory of their strength *
and in thy loving-kindness thou shalt lift up our horns.

For the Lord is our defence *
the Holy One of Israel is our King.
Thou spakest sometime in visions unto thy saints, and saidst *
I have laid help upon one that is mighty; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.
I have found David my servant *
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
My hand shall hold him fast *
and my arm shall strengthen him.
The enemy shall not be able to do him violence *
the son of wickedness shall not hurt him.
I will smite down his foes before his face *
and plague them that hate him.
My truth also and my mercy shall be with him *
and in my Name shall his horn be exalted.
I will set his dominion also in the sea *
and his right hand in the floods.
He shall call me, Thou art my Father *
my God, and my strong salvation.
And I will make him my first-born *
higher than the kings of the earth.
My mercy will I keep for him for evermore *
and my covenant shall stand fast with him.
His seed also will I make to endure for ever *
and his throne as the days of heaven.
But if his children forsake my law *
and walk not in my judgements;
If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments *
I will visit their offences with the rod, and their sin with scourges.
Nevertheless, my loving-kindness will I not utterly take from him *
nor suffer my truth to fail.
My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips *
I have sworn once by my holiness, that I will not fail David.
His seed shall endure for ever *
and his seat is like as the sun before me.
He shall stand fast for evermore as the moon *
and as the faithful witness in heaven.
But thou hast abhorred and forsaken thine Anointed *
and art displeased at him.
Thou hast broken the covenant of thy servant *
and cast his crown to the ground.
Thou hast overthrown all his hedges *
and broken down his strong holds.
All they that go by spoil him *
and he is become a reproach to his neighbours.
Thou hast set up the right hand of his enemies *
and made all his adversaries to rejoice.
Thou hast taken away the edge of his sword *
and givest him not victory in the battle.
Thou hast put out his glory *
and cast his throne down to the ground.
The days of his youth hast thou shortened *
and covered him with dishonour.
Lord, how long wilt thou hide thyself, for ever *
and shall thy wrath burn like fire?

O remember how short my time is *
wherefore hast thou made all men for nought?
What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death *
and shall he deliver his soul from the hand of hell?
Lord, where are thy old loving-kindnesses *
which thou swarest unto David in thy truth?
Remember, Lord, the rebuke that thy servants have *
and how I do bear in my bosom the rebukes of many people;
Wherewith thine enemies have blasphemed thee, and slandered the footsteps of thine Anointed *
Praised be the Lord for evermore. Amen, and Amen.

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 60:9-22

For the coastlands shall wait for me,
the ships of Tarshish first,
to bring your children from far away,
their silver and gold with them,
for the name of the LORD your God,
and for the Holy One of Israel,
because he has glorified you.
Foreigners shall build up your walls,
and their kings shall minister to you;
for in my wrath I struck you down,
but in my favour I have had mercy on you.
Your gates shall always be open;
day and night they shall not be shut,
so that nations shall bring you their wealth,
with their kings led in procession.
For the nation and kingdom
that will not serve you shall perish;
those nations shall be utterly laid waste.
The glory of Lebanon shall come to you,
the cypress, the plane, and the pine,
to beautify the place of my sanctuary;
and I will glorify where my feet rest.
The descendants of those who oppressed you
shall come bending low to you,
and all who despised you
shall bow down at your feet;
they shall call you the City of the LORD,
the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
Whereas you have been forsaken and hated,
with no one passing through,
I will make you majestic for ever,
a joy from age to age.
You shall suck the milk of nations,
you shall suck the breasts of kings;
and you shall know that I, the LORD, am your Saviour
and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

Instead of bronze I will bring gold,
instead of iron I will bring silver;
instead of wood, bronze,
instead of stones, iron.
I will appoint Peace as your overseer
and Righteousness as your taskmaster.
Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
devastation or destruction within your borders;
you shall call your walls Salvation,
and your gates Praise.

The sun shall no longer be
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give light to you by night;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
Your sun shall no more go down,
or your moon withdraw itself;
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.
Your people shall all be righteous;
they shall possess the land for ever.
They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands,
so that I might be glorified.
The least of them shall become a clan,
and the smallest one a mighty nation;
I am the LORD;
in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

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: Hebrews 6:17-7:10

In the same way, when God desired to show even more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it by an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God would prove false, we who have taken refuge might be strongly encouraged to seize the hope set before us. We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus, a forerunner on our behalf, has entered, having become a high priest for ever according to the order of Melchizedek.

This 'King Melchizedek of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham as he was returning from defeating the kings and blessed him'; and to him Abraham apportioned 'one-tenth of everything'. His name, in the first place, means 'king of righteousness'; next he is also king of Salem, that is, 'king of peace'. Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest for ever.

See how great he is! Even Abraham the patriarch gave him a tenth of the spoils. And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to collect tithes from the people, that is, from their kindred, though these also are descended from Abraham. But this man, who does not belong to their ancestry, collected tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had received the promises. It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. In the one case, tithes are received by those who are mortal; in the other, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

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.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; mercifully hear the supplications of thy people, and grant us thy peace all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O 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, O 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

CS Lewis- The God Who Prays in Us

An ordinary simple Christian kneels down to say his (sic) prayers. He is trying to get in touch with God. But if he is a Christian he knows that what is prompting him to pray is also God: God, so to speak, inside him. But he also knows that all his real knowledge of God comes through Christ, the Man who was God— that Christ is standing beside him, helping him to pray, praying for him. You see what is happening. God is the things to which he is praying— the goal he is trying to reach. God is also the road or bridge along which he is being pushed to that goal. So that the whole threefold life of the three-personal Being is actually going on in that ordinary little bedroom where an ordinary man is saying his prayers. The man is being caught up into the higher kind of life— what I called *Zoe* or spiritual life: he is being pulled into God, by God, while still remaining himself.

Sir Philip Sidney- Psalm CXVII

P raise him that aye
R emains the same:
A ll tongues display
I ehova's fame.
S ing all that share
T his earthly ball;
H is mercies are
E xpos'd to all:
L ike as the word
O nce he doth give,
R old in record,
D oth tyme outlive.

Lancelot Andrewes- A Commendation

I commend unto thee, o Lord,
impulses, my soul and body,
occasions, my mind and my thoughts,
purposes, my vows and my prayers,
endeavours, my senses and my members,
going out and coming in, my words and my deeds,
downsitting and uprising: my life and my death:

my brothers and sisters
their children
my benefactors
wellwishers
household
neighbours
country
all Christian folk.

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.

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Hymns suitable for use at home:

ICH: 670

Jerusalem the golden,
with milk and honey blessed;
beneath thy contemplation
sink heart and voice oppressed.
I know not, O I know not
what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion,
all jubilant with song,
and bright with many an angel,
and all the martyr throng;
the Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene,
the pastures of the blessed
are decked in glorious sheen.

Words: Bernard of Cluny (12th century), tr. J.M. Neale (1818-66) based on Revelation 7:14; 21:1-7

Tune: EWING adpt. From St Bede's, a tune in triple meter by Alexander Ewing (1830-95)

There is the throne of David;
and there, from care released,
the song of them that triumph,
the shout of them that feast;
and they who, with their Leader,
have conquered in the fight,
for ever and for ever
are clad in robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country,
the home of God's elect!

O sweet and blessed country,
That eager hearts expect!

Jesus, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest;
who art, with God the Father,
and spirit, ever blessed.

ICH: 431

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead.
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia ,alleluia,
Jesus, true and living bread.

Here for faith's discernment praying,
lest we fail to know thee now,
here our deepest homage paying,
we in loving reverence bow;
alleluia ,alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.

Now through lowliest form do veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
angels in thy mystery hail thee;
we in worship join with them.
Alleluia, alleluia,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
alleluia ,alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.

Great High Priest of our profession,
through the veil thou wentest in,
by thy mighty intercession
grace and peace for us to win;
alleluia, alleluia,
only sacrifice for sin.

Life-imparting, heavenly manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb that died.
alleluia ,alleluia,
Risen, ascended, glorified!

Words: George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925)

Tune: ST. HELEN George C. Martin (1844-1916)