

**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: 37**

Fret not thyself because of the ungodly \*  
neither be thou envious against the evil doers.  
For they shall soon be cut down like the grass \*  
and be withered even as the green herb.  
Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good \*  
dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.  
Delight thou in the Lord \*  
and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.  
Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him \*  
and he shall bring it to pass.  
He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light \*  
and thy just dealing as the noon-day.  
Hold thee still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon him \*  
but grieve not thyself at him, whose way doth prosper, against the man that doeth after evil counsels.  
Leave off from wrath, and let go displeasure \*  
fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved to do evil.  
Wicked doers shall be rooted out \*  
and they that patiently abide the Lord, those shall inherit the land.  
Yet a little while, and the ungodly shall be clean gone \*  
thou shalt look after his place, and he shall be away.  
But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth \*  
and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.  
The ungodly seeketh counsel against the just \*  
and gnasheth upon him with his teeth.  
The Lord shall laugh him to scorn \*  
for he hath seen that his day is coming.  
The ungodly have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow \*  
to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as are of a right conversation.  
Their sword shall go through their own heart \*  
and their bow shall be broken.  
A small thing that the righteous hath \*  
is better than great riches of the ungodly.  
For the arms of the ungodly shall be broken \*  
and the Lord upholdeth the righteous.  
The Lord knoweth the days of the godly \*  
and their inheritance shall endure for ever.  
They shall not be confounded in the perilous time \*

and in the days of dearth they shall have enough.  
 As for the ungodly, they shall perish; and the enemies of the Lord shall consume as the fat of lambs \*  
 yea, even as the smoke, shall they consume away.  
 The ungodly borroweth, and payeth not again \*  
 but the righteous is merciful, and liberal.  
 Such as are blessed of God shall possess the land \*  
 and they that are cursed of him shall be rooted out.  
 The Lord ordereth a good man's going \*  
 and maketh his way acceptable to himself.  
 Though he fall, he shall not be cast away \*  
 for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.  
 I have been young, and now am old \*  
 and yet saw I never the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging their bread.  
 The righteous is ever merciful, and lendeth \*  
 and his seed is blessed.  
 Flee from evil, and do the thing that is good \*  
 and dwell for evermore.  
 For the Lord loveth the thing that is right \*  
 he forsaketh not his that be godly, but they are preserved for ever.  
 The unrighteous shall be punished \*  
 as for the seed of the ungodly, it shall be rooted out.  
 The righteous shall inherit the land \*  
 and dwell therein for ever.  
 The mouth of the righteous is exercised in wisdom \*  
 and his tongue will be talking of judgement.  
 The law of his God is in his heart \*  
 and his goings shall not slide.  
 The ungodly seeth the righteous \*  
 and seeketh occasion to slay him.  
 The Lord will not leave him in his hand \*  
 nor condemn him when he is judged.  
 Hope thou in the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall promote thee, that thou shalt possess the  
 land \*  
 when the ungodly shall perish, thou shalt see it.  
 I myself have seen the ungodly in great power \*  
 and flourishing like a green bay tree.  
 I went by, and lo, he was gone \*  
 I sought him, but his place could no where be found.  
 Keep innocency, and take heed unto the thing that is right \*  
 for that shall bring a man peace at the last.  
 As for the transgressors, they shall perish together \*  
 and the end of the ungodly is, they shall be rooted out at the last.  
 But the salvation of the righteous cometh of the Lord \*  
 who is also their strength in the time of trouble.  
 And the Lord shall stand by them, and save them \*  
 he shall deliver them from the ungodly, and shall save them, because they put their trust in him.  
 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: Genesis 1:1-2:3**

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then

God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,

in the image of God he created them;

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

**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: Matthew 6:25-34**

Jesus said to the crowds: 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

'So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'

**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**

O Lord God, who seest that we put not our trust in any thing that we do: mercifully grant that by thy power we may be defended against all adversity; 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

### *Praise to the Creator*

You alone are unutterable, from the time you created all things that can be spoken of. You alone are unknowable, from the time you created all things that can be known. All things cry out about you; those which speak, and those which cannot speak. All things honour you; those which think, and those which cannot think. For there is one longing, one groaning, that all things have for you. All things pray to you that comprehend your plan and offer you a silent hymn. In you, the One, all things abide, and all things endlessly run to you who are the end of all.

*Gregory of Nazianzus*

Glory be to God for dappled things –  
for skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;  
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;  
Landscape plotted and pieced-fold, fallow, and plough;  
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;  
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)  
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:  
Praise him.

*Gerard Manley Hopkins, 'Pied Beauty'*

### *Prayer for environmental respect*

Show us, O God, how to love not only animals, birds, and all green and growing things, but the soil, air and water by which we live, so that we may not exploit or pollute them for our profit or convenience. Help us to cherish these necessities for our survival; and guide those in authority to ensure that the human spirit may not be starved in pursuit of material comfort and wealth.

*Phoebe Hesketh*

### *A prayer of trust*

Almighty God, who knowest our necessities before we ask, and our ignorance in asking: set free thy servants from all anxious thoughts for the morrow; give us contentment with thy good gifts; and confirm our faith that according as we seek thy kingdom, thou wilt not suffer us to lack any good thing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Augustine*

### *Prayer for the anxious*

Grant calmness and control of thought to those who are facing uncertainty and anxiety: let their heart stand fast, believing in the Lord. Be thou all things to all people, knowing each one and their petition, each house and its need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

*Russian Liturgy, 6<sup>th</sup> century*

## 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.

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

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## Hymns suitable for use at home:

### ICH 365

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise;  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive in afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;

and that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence, and his very self  
and essence all-divine.

O generous love! that he who smote  
in Man, for man, the foe,  
the double agony in Man,  
for man, should undergo;

and in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his brethren, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise;  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.

*Words: John Henry Newman (1801-90) from 'The Dream of Gerontius'*

*Tune: GERONTIUS John Bacchus Dykes (1823-76)*

### ICH 657

O God of Bethel, by whose hand  
thy children still are fed;  
who through this earthly pilgrimage  
hast all thy people led;

our vows, our prayers, we now present  
before thy throne of grace;  
God of our fathers, be the God  
of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life  
our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy covering wings around  
till all our wanderings cease,  
and at our Father's loved abode  
our souls arrive in peace.

Such blessings from thy gracious hand  
our humble prayers implore;  
be thou to us, O Lord our God,  
our portion evermore.

*Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-52) based on Genesis 28:10-22*

*Tune: ABRIDGE melody by Isaac Smith (1734-1805)*