

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: 138

I will give thanks unto thee, ○ Lord, with my whole heart *
even before the gods will I sing praise unto thee.
I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy Name, because of thy loving-kindness and truth *
for thou hast magnified thy Name, and thy Word, above all things.
When I called upon thee, thou heardest me *
and enduedst my soul with much strength.
All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, ○ Lord *
for they have heard the words of thy mouth.
Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord *
that great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly *
as for the proud, he beholdeth them afar off.
Though I walk in the midst of trouble, yet shalt thou refresh me *
thou shalt stretch forth thy hand upon the furiousness of mine enemies, and thy right hand shall save
me.
The Lord shall make good his loving-kindness toward me *
yea, thy mercy, ○ Lord, endureth for ever; despise not then the works of thine own hands.

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 12:1-9

The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built

an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on by stages towards the Negeb.

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 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.’

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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 God, who seest that we have no power of ourselves; keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LENTEN COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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

Prayer for greater faith

Almighty God, who in thy wisdom hast so ordered our earthly life that we needs must walk by faith and not by sight; grant us such faith in thee that, amidst all things that pass our understanding, we may believe in thy fatherly care, and ever be strengthened by the assurance that underneath are the everlasting arms; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Source unknown

Holding to hope

Lord, give us grace to hold to you
when all is weariness and fear
and sin abounds within, without,
when love itself is tested by the doubt...
that love is false, or dead within the soul,
when every act brings new confusion, new distress,
new opportunities, new misunderstandings,
and every thought new accusation.

Lord, give us grace that we may know
that in the darkness pressing round
it is the mist of sin that hides your face,
that you are there
and you do know we love you still
and our dependence and endurance in your will
is still our gift of love.

Gilbert Shaw

For those facing despair and hopelessness

O merciful Father, who hast taught us in thy holy Word that thou dost not willingly afflict or grieve the children of men: look with pity upon the sorrows of all those who struggle with the trials of the present times and are tempted to despair. Remember them, O Lord, in thy mercy, nourish their souls with

patience, comfort them with a sense of thy goodness, lift up thy countenance upon them, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Episcopal Church of the United States of America Book of Common Prayer

God be in my head, and in my understanding. God be in mine eyes, and in my looking. God be in my mouth, and in my speaking. God be in my heart and in my thinking. God be at my end, and at my departing.

Sarum Primer (1588)

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 9

There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more keenly felt than heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.

There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word,
and our lives would fill with gladness
in the presence of the Lord.

Words: Frederick W. Faber (1814-63)

Tune: CROSS OF JESUS John Stainer (1840-1901) from The Crucifixion

ICH 323*

The God of Abraham praise
Who reigns enthroned above,
Ancient of everlasting days,
And God of love:
To him uplift your voice,
At whose command
From earth we rise and seek the joys
At his right hand.

There dwells the Lord our King,
The Lord our Righteousness,
Triumphant o'er the world and sin,
The Prince of Peace:
On Sions' sacred height
His kingdom he maintains,
And glorious with his saints in light
For ever reigns.

The God who reigns on high
The great archangels sing,
And 'Holy, holy, holy' cry
'Almighty King!
Who was, and is the same,
And evermore shall be:
Eternal Father, great I AM,
We worship thee.'

The whole triumphant host
Give thanks to God on high:
'Hail, Father, Son and Holy Ghost'
They ever cry:
Hail, Abraham's God and mine!
(I join the heavenly lays)
All might and majesty are thine,
And endless praise.

Words: Thomas Olivers (1725-1799) based on the Jewish Yigdal

Tune: LEONI Hebrew melody noted by Thomas Olivers (1725-1799) from the singing of Meyer Lyon of the London Great Synagogue, adpt. c.1770

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

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