

**¶ Evening Prayer**  
**from All Saints' Day until**  
**the day before the First Sunday of Advent**  
**Wednesday, 25 November 2020**  
**Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th century**  
**[Commemoration]**  
**Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748**  
**[Commemoration]**

**Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Your faithful servants bless you.  
**All They make known the glory of your kingdom.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
our light and our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
Now, as darkness is falling,  
wash away our transgressions,  
cleanse us by your refining fire  
and make us temples of your Holy Spirit.  
By the light of Christ,  
dispel the darkness of our hearts  
and make us ready to enter your kingdom,  
where songs of praise for ever sound.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**All Blessed be God for ever.**

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.

**All Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

### **Psalmody**

The appointed psalmody is said.

### **Psalm 121**

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;   
from where is my help to come?

**2 My help comes from the Lord,   
the maker of heaven and earth.**

3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble;   
he who watches over you will not sleep.

**4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel   
shall neither slumber nor sleep. R**

5 The Lord himself watches over you;   
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

**6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ♦  
neither the moon by night.**

7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil; ♦  
it is he who shall keep your soul.

**8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out  
and your coming in, ♦  
from this time forth for evermore.**

**All 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.**

## **Isaiah 19**

An oracle concerning Egypt.

See, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud  
and comes to Egypt;  
the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence,  
and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.  
I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians,  
and they will fight, one against the other,  
neighbour against neighbour,  
city against city, kingdom against kingdom;  
the spirit of the Egyptians within them will be emptied out,  
and I will confound their plans;  
they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead  
and the ghosts and the familiar spirits;  
I will deliver the Egyptians  
into the hand of a hard master;

a fierce king will rule over them,  
says the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts.

The waters of the Nile will be dried up,  
and the river will be parched and dry;  
its canals will become foul,  
and the branches of Egypt's Nile will diminish and dry up;  
reeds and rushes will rot away.

There will be bare places by the Nile,  
on the brink of the Nile;  
and all that is sown by the Nile will dry up,  
be driven away, and be no more.

Those who fish will mourn;  
all who cast hooks in the Nile will lament,  
and those who spread nets on the water will languish.

The workers in flax will be in despair,  
and the carders and those at the loom will grow pale.  
Its weavers will be dismayed,  
and all who work for wages will be grieved.

The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish;  
the wise counsellors of Pharaoh give stupid counsel.

How can you say to Pharaoh,  
'I am one of the sages,  
a descendant of ancient kings'?

Where now are your sages?

Let them tell you and make known  
what the Lord of hosts has planned against Egypt.

The princes of Zoan have become fools,  
and the princes of Memphis are deluded;  
those who are the cornerstones of its tribes  
have led Egypt astray.

The Lord has poured into them

a spirit of confusion;  
and they have made Egypt stagger in all its doings  
as a drunkard staggers around in vomit.  
Neither head nor tail, palm branch nor reed,  
will be able to do anything for Egypt.

On that day the Egyptians will be like women, and tremble with fear before the hand that the Lord of hosts raises against them. And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians; everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the plan that the Lord of hosts is planning against them.

On that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the Lord of hosts. One of these will be called the City of the Sun.

On that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the centre of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. It will be a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt; when they cry to the Lord because of oppressors, he will send them a saviour, and will defend and deliver them. The Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians; and the Egyptians will know the Lord on that day, and will worship with sacrifice and burnt-offering, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them. The Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing; they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their supplications and heal them.

On that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians.

On that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, 'Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my heritage.'

## **Canticle**

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

1We have come before God's holy mountain,   
to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God.

**2We have come before countless angels making festival,   
before the assembly of the firstborn citizens of heaven.**

3We have come before God, who is judge of all,   
before the spirits of the just made perfect.

**4We have come before Jesus,   
the mediator of the new covenant.**

5We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken:   
so let us give thanks and offer to God acceptable worship,

**6Full of reverence and awe;   
for our God is a consuming fire.**

Hebrews 12.22-24a, 28, 29

**AllGlory 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.**

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

## **Matthew 10.16-33**

‘See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

‘A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

‘So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

‘Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

## Reflection

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;  
you hold me by my right hand.

**All And afterwards receive me with glory.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All Lord, you will guide me with your counsel  
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

from Psalm 73

## Gospel Canticle

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

1My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;   
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

**2From this day all generations will call me blessed;   
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.**

3He has mercy on those who fear him,   
from generation to generation.

**4He has shown strength with his arm   
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**

5Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦  
and lifting up the lowly.

**6He has filled the hungry with good things ♦  
and sent the rich away empty.**

7He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦  
to remember his promise of mercy,

**8The promise made to our ancestors, ♦  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Luke 1.46-55

**All 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.**

**Refrain:**

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

## **Prayers**

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ for peace

¶ for individuals and their needs

Prayers may include the following concerns from the [cycle on pages 364–365](#)

- ¶ The saints on earth, that they may live as citizens of heaven
- ¶ All people, that they may hear and believe the word of God
- ¶ All who fear the winter months
- ¶ All sovereigns and political leaders, that they may imitate the righteous rule of Christ
- ¶ All who grieve or wait with the dying

A form of prayer found [on page 384](#) may be used.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

(or)

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

The Collect of the day is said

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All 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.  
**All Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

© [The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005](#)  
Official Common Worship apps, books and eBooks are available from [Church House Publishing](#).

The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from *The New Revised Standard Version* Anglicized Edition, copyright 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Implemented by Simon Kershaw at [Crucix](#).  
Implementation copyright © Simon Kershaw, 2002-2019.