

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST. EVENING PRAYER

GREETING

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
And also with you.

PREPARATION

We meet in the presence of God who knows our needs, hears our cries, feels our pain, and heals our wounds.
Amen.

PENITENCE

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness. Together, let us confess our sins.

Silence is kept

Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us:
Almighty and most merciful Father, we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things that we ought to have done; and we have done those things that we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to humankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

O Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

God is spirit.

Let us worship in spirit and truth.

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.

THE WORD OF GOD

A READING

St Matthew 23:27-32

‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which on the outside look beautiful, but inside they are full of the bones of the dead and of all kinds of filth. So you also on the outside look righteous to others, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. ‘Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, and you say, “If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.” Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your ancestors.

ADDRESS

CANTICLE

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 Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

PRAISE

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

From the rising of the sun to its setting your name is proclaimed in all the world.

To you be glory and praise for ever.

When the times had fully come you sent the Sun of Righteousness.

In him the fullness of your glory dwells. To you be glory and praise for ever.

PRAYERS

We pray to the Lord: in faith we pray.

We pray to you our God.

Silence is kept

That the rest of this day may be holy, peace full and full of your presence; in faith we pray.

We pray to you our God.

That we may hear and respond to your call to peace and justice; in faith we pray

We pray to you our God.

That you will sustain the faith and hope of those who are lonely, oppressed and anxious; in faith we pray

We pray to you our God.

That you will strengthen us in your service, and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom; in faith we pray

We pray to you our God.

God of mercy, you know us and love us and hear our prayer: keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you:
The night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:
and fill your church with your glory. Amen.