

**WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER. EVENING
PRAYER**

GREETING

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy, and peace be with you.

And also with you.

PREPARATION

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise God's presence with us.

As God's people we have gathered. Let us worship together. Amen.

PENITENCE

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden, to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

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

God in Christ has revealed his glory.

Come, let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting.

The Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

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 Luke 6:20-26

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 'Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. 'Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. 'But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 'Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. 'Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

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

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised.

There is no end to God's greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.

All your works praise you, Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and 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

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon you Church in the burning fire of your love: Grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel; that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

Heavenly Father, we share together the blessing of your presence.

Give us in this life knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.