

## WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2021: A LATE EVENING OFFICE

### PREPARATION

Blessed be our God for all time, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Glory to you, our God, glory be to you,  
Holy Spirit, Comforter,  
treasure of all goodness and giver of life,  
come and dwell in us,  
cleans us from all sin,  
and in your love bring us to salvation.

### OPENING PRAYER

### THE LITANY

God the Father, creator of heaven and earth,  
**Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, giver of life,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Saviour of the world,  
forgive our sins, known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
that we may amend our lives according to your holy word,  
and share with all your people the joys of your eternal kingdom.  
Jesus, Lamb of God,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Redeemer of the world,  
**Give us your peace.**

### THE WORD OF GOD

### PSALM

#### *Psalm 90*

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge ♦  
from one generation to another.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the earth and the world were formed, ♦  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to dust and say: ♦  
‘Turn back, O children of earth.’

- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, ♦  
which passes like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep them away like a dream; ♦  
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; ♦  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; ♦  
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
- 8 You have set our misdeeds before you ♦  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; ♦  
our years come to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The days of our life are three score years and ten,  
or if our strength endures, even four score; ♦  
yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,  
for they soon pass away and we are gone.**
- 11 Who regards the power of your wrath ♦  
and your indignation like those who fear you?
- 12 So teach us to number our days ♦  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**
- 13 Turn again, O Lord; how long will you delay? ♦  
Have compassion on your servants.
- 14 Satisfy us with your loving-kindness in the morning, ♦  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
- 15 Give us gladness for the days you have afflicted us, ♦  
and for the years in which we have seen adversity.
- 16 Show your servants your works, ♦  
and let your glory be over their children.**
- 17 May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us; ♦  
prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands.

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.**

## A READING

*Matthew 4: 1-11*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",  
and "On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him."

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

## MEDITATION

*A period of meditation on the reading follows.*

## THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

**NUNC DIMITTIS**      *The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*

**1 Now, Lord, you let your servant | go in | peace: ■**  
your | word has | been ful|filled.

**2 My own eyes have | seen the · sal|vation ■**  
which you have prepared in the | sight of | every | people.

**3 A light to re|veal you · to the | nations ■**  
and the | glory · of your | people | Israel.

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.

## PRAYER

Let us pray to the Lord with all our heart and with all our soul.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for all Christian people, that they may live in love and truth.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for all ministers of the Church, and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for peace throughout the world, and for all governments.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for our neighbours and for all our friends.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for those who hate us as we pray for those who love us.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for refugees and prisoners, and for all who are exposed to the dangers of travel.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for all sick people, for the sorrowful and the dying.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us pray for the abundance of the fruits of the earth, and that the poor and hungry may receive a just share.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Let us remember our brothers and sisters who have entered into eternal rest.  
**Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.**

## INTERCESSIONS

SILENT OR OPEN PRAYER

Let us continue praying in a time of open prayer.

*A period of open prayer follows.*

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

THE COLLECT

Almighty God,  
may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent,  
enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings;  
that by following in the Way,  
we may come to share in the glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Amen.**

COMMON COLLECT

Lord Almighty,  
come and scatter the darkness of our hearts  
by the light of your presence;  
that we may know you the Light of the world  
and the one true God,  
blessed this night and for evermore. Amen.

THE ENDING

DISMISSAL

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

BLESSING

May God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace. Amen.