

Wednesday 15th December 2021

PREPARATION

GREETING

The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. *Romans 13:12*

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Reveal among us the light of your presence

that we may behold your power and glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
creator of light and darkness,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
As evening falls, you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.
May your word be a lantern to our feet
and a light upon our path
that we may behold your coming among us.
Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness
and free our tongues to sing your praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

PENITENTIAL KYRIES

Turn to us again, O God our Saviour,
And let your anger cease from us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
And grant us your salvation.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Your salvation is near for those that fear you,
That glory may dwell in our land.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

O Lord Jesus Christ,
 who at your first coming sent your messenger
 to prepare your way before you:
 Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
 may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
 by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
 that at your second coming to judge the world
 we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
 for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, world without end. **Amen.**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A READING

Luke 7:31-35

31 "To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like?"

32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

"We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;

we sang a dirge, and you did not weep."

33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' **34** The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' **35** Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

A CANTICLE

NUNC DIMITTIS

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

**2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ■
 which you have prepared in the sight of every people.**

**3 A light to reveal 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.**

PSALMS

Psalm 42

1 As the deer longs for the water brooks, ◆

so longs my soul for you, O God.

2 My soul is athirst for God, even for the living God; ♦

when shall I come before the presence of God?

3 My tears have been my bread day and night, ♦

while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

4 Now when I think on these things, I pour out my soul: ♦

how I went with the multitude

and led the procession to the house of God,

5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, ♦

among those who kept holy day.

6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦

and why are you so disquieted within me?

7 O put your trust in God; ♦

for I will yet give him thanks,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

8 My soul is heavy within me; ♦

therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,

and from Hermon and the hill of Mizar.

9 Deep calls to deep in the thunder of your waterfalls; ♦

all your breakers and waves have gone over me.

10 The Lord will grant his loving-kindness in the daytime; ♦

through the night his song will be with me,

a prayer to the God of my life.

11 I say to God my rock,

'Why have you forgotten me, ♦

and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?'

12 As they crush my bones, my enemies mock me; ♦

while all day long they say to me, 'Where is now your God?'

13 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦

and why are you so disquieted within me?

14 O put your trust in God; ♦

for I will yet give him thanks,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43

1 Give judgement for me, O God,

and defend my cause against an ungodly people; ♦

deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

2 For you are the God of my refuge;

why have you cast me from you, ♦

and why go I so heavily, while the enemy oppresses me?

3 O send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, ♦
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling,

**4 That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness; ♦**

and on the lyre I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, ♦
and why are you so disquieted within me?

6 O put your trust in God; ♦

**for I will yet give him thanks,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.**

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 SERMON *(A Short Reflection)*

RESPONSE

- A Time of Open Prayer -

THE PRAYERS

A COLLECT

Almighty God,
Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light
now in the time of this mortal life
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;
that on the last day
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

DIMISSION

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.

**The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.**