

Tuesday 20th April 2021

By your Side

¶ PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Let your light shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds.
Serve one another humbly in love
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
our Rock and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You walk with your pilgrim people:
make us to know your ways and teach us your paths.
You sow in our lives the joy that comes from sharing,
and teach us that the gift grows with giving.
You breathe in us gracious hearts,
and reveal to us the delight of outpouring generosity,
so that in your presence we sing;
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

This opening prayer may be said;

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

Amen.

¶ THE WORD OF GOD

Psalmody: Psalm 116

**I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.**

- 1 I love the Lord,
for he has heard the voice of my supplication;
because he inclined his ear to me
on the day I called to him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me;
the pains of hell took hold of me;
by grief and sorrow was I held.
- 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the simple;
I was brought very low and he saved me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul,
for the Lord has been gracious to you.
- 7 For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.
- 8 I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.

9 I believed that I should perish
for I was sorely troubled;
and I said in my alarm,
'Everyone is a liar.'

10 How shall I repay the Lord
for all the benefits he has given to me?

11 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the name of the Lord.

12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people.

13 Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his faithful servants

14 O Lord, I am your servant,
your servant, the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord.

16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the house of the Lord,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Alleluia.

**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.**

**I will walk before the Lord
in the land of the living.**

Canticle: A Song of Hannah

**Blessed are those who believe,
for what God has promised will be fulfilled.**

1 My heart exults in the Lord;
my strength is exalted in my God.

2 My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.

3 There is no Holy One like you, O Lord,
nor any Rock like you, our God.

4 For you are a God of knowledge
and by you our actions are weighed.

5 The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.

6 Those who were full now hire themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are well fed.

7 The barren woman has borne sevenfold,
but she who has many children is forlorn.

8 Both the poor and the rich are of your making;
you bring low and you also exalt.

9 You raise up the poor from the dust,
and lift the needy from the ash heap.

10 You make them sit with the rulers
and inherit a place of honour.

11 For the pillars of the earth are yours
and on them you have set the world.

1 Samuel 2.1,2,3b-5,7,8

**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.**

**Blessed are those who believe,
for what God has promised will be fulfilled.**

Scripture Reading

So [Naomi] said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!' When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Ruth 1.15-18

Responsory

Come, you that are blessed;
**as you serve these who are members of my family,
you serve the Lord our God.**
For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.
Come, you that are blessed.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you clothed me.
**as you serve these who are members of my family,
you serve the Lord our God.**

I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.
**Come, you that are blessed;
as you serve these who are members of my family,
you serve the Lord our God.**

from Matthew 25.34-40

Gospel Canticle

**Blessed are those whose way is pure,
who walk in the law of the Lord.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**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.**

**Blessed are those whose way is pure,
who walk in the law of the Lord.**

¶ Prayers

Intercessions are offered, and may conclude;

Loving God,
through the expression of grace
your Son came not to be served but to serve.
Nurture in us generous hearts,
that, in word and action,
your glory may be revealed;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Coming to the Lord with thankful hearts,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray
**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.**

¶ THE CONCLUSION

Lord, you are just
and your commandments are eternal;
teach us to love you with all our heart
and our neighbour as ourselves,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Lord, the Rock of our salvation,
bless us and keep us.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.