

Wednesday 21st April 2021

Generosity of Gift

¶ PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Let us offer the first fruits of our lives;
for where our treasure is, there our heart will be also.
In the presence of God, who gives life to all things,
we lift our voices in praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
creator and life-giver,
source of all that is and is to be;
to you be glory and praise for ever.
You fashion us in your image,
and plant within our hearts the joy of giving.
You provide us with every blessing in abundance,
so that by always having enough of everything,
we may share abundantly in every good work;
as our hearts overflow with many thanksgivings to 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 100

The Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting.

- 1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth;
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
- 2 Know that the Lord is God;
it is he that has made us and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
- 3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and bless his name.
- 4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting,
and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**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 Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting.

Canticle: A Song of David

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

- 1 Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever,
for yours is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty.
- 2 Everything in heaven and on earth is yours;
yours is the kingdom, O Lord,
and you are exalted as head over all.
- 3 Riches and honour come from you
and you rule over all.
- 4 In your hand are power and might;
yours it is to give power and strength to all.
- 5 And now we give you thanks, our God,
and praise your glorious name.
- 6 For all things come from you,
and of your own have we given you.

1 Chronicles 29.10b-13,14b

**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.**

**Splendour and majesty are yours, O God;
you are exalted as head over all.**

Scripture Reading

Araunah said, 'Why has my lord the king come to his servant?' David said, 'To buy the threshing-floor from you in order to build an altar to the Lord, so that the plague may be averted from the people.' Then Araunah said to David, 'Let my lord the king take and offer up what seems good to him; here are the oxen for the burnt-offering, and the threshing-sledges and the yokes of the oxen for the wood. All this, O king, Araunah gives to the king.' And Araunah said to the king, 'May the Lord your God respond favourably to you.'

But the king said to Araunah, 'No, but I will buy them from you for a price; I will not offer burnt-offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.' So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. David built there an altar to the Lord, and offered burnt-offerings and offerings of well-being. So the Lord answered his supplication for the land, and the plague was averted from Israel.

2 Sam 24.21-25

Responsory

You, O Lord, have brought us into this place,
so now we offer our first fruits to you.
You heard our voice and saw our affliction;
You, O Lord, have brought us into this place.
You gave us this land, overflowing with milk and honey.
so now we offer our first fruits to you.
We celebrate with all the abundance that you have given us.
**You, O Lord, have brought us into this place,
so now we offer our first fruits to you.**

from Deuteronomy 26.1-11

Gospel Canticle

**I will make heard the voice of thanksgiving
and tell of all your wonderful deeds.**

- 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.**

**I will make heard the voice of thanksgiving
and tell of all your wonderful deeds.**

PRAYERS

Intercessions are offered, and may conclude;

God of abundance,
the author and giver of all good things;
grant us a gracious and humble heart,
that we may give you glory
through offering the first fruits of our lives,
and grow more into the likeness
of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Offering to God our sacrifice of praise,
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

Saving God,
open the gates of righteousness,
that your pilgrim people may enter
and be built into a living temple
on the cornerstone of our salvation,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God, who is the greatness and the power,
bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.