



# GENEROSITY WEEK

 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# Morning Prayer

## Out of dark times



# Day 4

# 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,  
life-giver and sustainer,  
source of all that is and is to be;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You fashion us in your image,  
and store 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 121

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

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble;  
he who watches over you will not sleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
neither the moon by night.
- 7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep your soul.
- 8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out  
and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

**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

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is So. Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

“Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said. “Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing— 24 and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

*Genesis 37:17b-28*

# 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 Cantic

**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.**



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