

Night prayer for Thursday

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
Who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence follows, for reflection on the past day.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us. *(Said three times)***

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

**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.**

Alleluia!

Song

We believe: Maranatha, Light of the day.

Psalm 93

1. The Lord is king; he has put on splendid apparel;^{*}
the Lord has put on his apparel and girded himself with strength.
 2. He has made the whole world so sure^{*} that it cannot be moved;
 3. Ever since the world began,
your throne has been established;^{*}
you are from everlasting.
 4. The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their voice;^{*}
the waters have lifted up their
pounding waves.
 5. Mightier than the sound of many waters,
mightier than the breakers of the sea,^{*}
mightier is the Lord who dwells on high.
 6. Your testimonies are very sure,^{*}
and holiness adorns your house, O Lord,
for ever and for evermore.
- You have established your throne, O Lord,
above the chaos of this world:
may your truth, which is for everlasting,
be ours, now and for ever.*
- Amen.**

Psalm 148

1. Alleluia!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;^{*}
praise him in the heights.
2. Praise him, all you angels of his;^{*}
praise him, all his host.
3. Praise him, sun and moon;^{*}
praise him, all you shining stars.
4. Praise him, heaven of heavens,^{*}
and you waters above the heavens.
5. Let them praise the name of the Lord;^{*}
for he commanded and they
were created.
6. He made them stand fast for ever
and ever;^{*}
he gave them a law which shall not
pass away.
7. Praise the Lord from the earth,^{*}
you sea-monsters and all deeps;

8. Fire and hail, snow and fog,^{*}
tempestuous wind, doing his will;

9. Mountains and all hills,^{*}
fruit trees and all cedars;

10. Wild beasts and all cattle,^{*}
creeping things and winged birds;

11. Kings of the earth and all peoples,^{*}
princes and all rulers of the world;

12. Young men and maidens,^{*}
old and young together.

13. Let them praise the name of the Lord,^{*}
for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven.

14. He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,^{*}
the children of Israel,
a people who are near him. Alleluia!

*O glorious God,
the whole of creation proclaims your marvellous work:
increase in us a capacity to wonder and delight in it,
that heaven's praise may echo in our hearts
and our lives be spent as good stewards of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

**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.**

Gospel reading: Matthew 3

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

¹⁰ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ ‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

Responsory

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel canticle: Nunc dimittis

Refrain:

**Save us,*
O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in peace.**

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.**

Save us,*

**O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Prayers

God of glory,
touch our lips with the fire of your Spirit,
that we, with all Creation,
may rejoice to sing your praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A time of silent prayer.

As we come to the ending of the day,
let us pray as our Redeemer has
taught us:

**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 blessing

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.

May God's love surround us,
God's joy fill our lives,
God's peace be in our hearts,
and God's blessing be with us
this night and always.
Amen.