



Evening Prayer for the  
First Sunday of Advent,  
*celebrating the beginning of the*  
‘Year of the Word’ 2020  
*The God who Speaks.*

Sunday 1 December 2019



Scripture is at the centre of everything the Church does. The word of God shapes our prayer and worship. The Bible shows us how to understand the world, how we are called to live and relate to each other.

2020 is the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* — Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate 2020 as a year of focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'.

During the year, we will be celebrating, living and sharing God's word with an exciting new Scripture initiative. It's an opportunity to enrich current practice and to develop and explore new ways of responding to 'The God who Speaks'.

<http://godwhospeaks.uk>

# EVENING PRAYER

## INTRODUCTION

*Stand*

O God, come to our aid.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

## BLESSING OF THE LIGHT

Candles may be lit

Your word, O God is a lantern to our feet  
and a light upon our path.

℣. The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

℟. And with your spirit.

℣. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

℟. Who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.

Blessed are you Sovereign God,  
creator of light and darkness!

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 the coming of the Kingdom among us  
and your glory.

Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness  
and free our tongues to sing your praise,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

℟. Blessed be God for ever!

## HYMN

- 1 Hark! A herald voice is calling:  
`Christ is nigh' it seems to say;  
`cast away the dreams of darkness,  
O ye children of the day!'
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling,  
shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us meet him with repentance,  
pray that we may be forgiven.
- 4 So when next he comes with glory,  
wrapping all the earth in fear,  
may he then as our defender  
on the clouds of heaven appear.
- 5 Honour, glory, praise and blessing,  
to the Father and the Son,  
with the everlasting Spirit,  
while unending ages run.

6th century, tr. Edward Caswall (1814-78)

## PSALMODY

Sit

ANT. 1: Rejoice greatly, daughter of Sion, shout with gladness,  
daughter of Jerusalem. Alleluia

The Messiah, king and priest

Psalm 109 (110)

*“He must be king so that he may put all his enemies under his feet”* (1 Cor 15:25).



The Lord's revelation to my Master: †  
‘Sit on my right:  
your foes I will put beneath your feet.’

The Lord will wield from Zion †  
your sceptre of power:  
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth †  
on the holy mountains;  
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.

The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change. †  
‘You are a priest for ever,  
a priest like Melchizedek of old.’

The Master standing at your right hand  
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.  
He shall drink from the stream by the wayside  
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

ANT.: Rejoice greatly, daughter of Sion, shout with gladness,  
daughter of Jerusalem. Alleluia

ANT. 2: Christ our king will come. He is the Lamb that John announced.

Thanksgiving in the Temple

Psalm 113A (114): 1-8

*You have renounced this world, have also been lead forth from Egypt (St. Augustine)*



When Israel came forth from Egypt,  
Jacob's sons from an alien people,  
Judah became the Lord's temple,  
Israel became his kingdom.

The sea fled at the sight:  
the Jordan turned back on its course,  
the mountains leapt like rams  
and the hills like yearling sheep.

Why was it, sea, that you fled,  
that you turned back, Jordan, on your course?  
Mountains, that you leapt like rams;  
hills, like yearling sheep?

Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,  
in the presence of the God of Jacob,  
who turns the rock into a pool  
and flint into a spring of water.

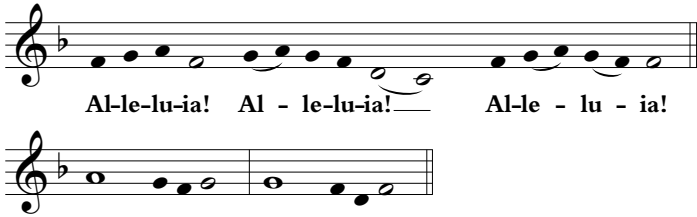
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

ANT.: Christ our king will come. He is the Lamb that John announced.

ANT. 3: Behold I am coming soon to reward every man according to his deeds, says the Lord.

The marriage feast of the Lamb

Canticle: Apocalypse 19:1,2,5-7



Alleluia.

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,  
his judgements are true and just.

Alleluia Alleluia

Alleluia.

Praise our God, all you his servants,  
you who fear him, small and great.

Alleluia. Alleluia

Alleluia.

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns,  
let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.

Alleluia. Alleluia

Alleluia.

The marriage of the Lamb has come,  
and his bride has made herself ready.

Alleluia. Alleluia

Alleluia

Give praise to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit  
both now and for ages unending. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia

ANT.: Behold I am coming soon to reward every man according to his deeds, says the Lord.

## SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 1:1-4

Something which has existed since the beginning,  
that we have heard,  
and we have seen with our own eyes;  
that we have watched  
and touched with our hands:  
the Word, who is life —  
this is our subject.

That life was made visible:  
we saw it and we are giving our testimony,  
telling you of the eternal life  
which was with the Father and has been made visible to us,

What we have seen and heard  
we are telling you  
so that you too may be in union with us,  
as we are in union with the Father  
and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We are writing this to you to make our own joy complete.

## HOMILY

### PROCESSION OF THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS

*stand*

Following the Homily the book of the Gospels is processed through the church while a Litany of the Word or other processional chant is sung (or said).

The Book of the Gospels is placed in a prominent position at the Ambo and honoured with incense.

### PLACING OF THE GOSPELS

At the Ambo the deacon or priest holding the Book aloft, proclaims:

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
for his steadfast love endures for ever!

As the compass points are mentioned the ministers turns and faces that direction.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so  
for he has gathered them from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.



'Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will not pass away,' says the Lord.

℞. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

ANT.: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.  
Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, alleluia.



My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;  
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.  
Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age,  
on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength  
and scatters the proud-hearted.  
He casts the mighty from their thrones  
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy,  
the mercy promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.

ANT.: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.  
Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, alleluia.

## INTERCESSIONS

Let us humbly implore our redeemer, Jesus Christ,  
who is the way, the truth and the life, as we pray:

℟. Come, and remain with us, Word of the Father.

Jesus, Son of the Most High, whom Gabriel announced to the  
Virgin Mary,— come, rule over your people for ever.

℟. Come, and remain with us, Word of the Father.

Holy One of God, before whom the Precursor leapt for joy in  
Elizabeth's womb, — come, give to the whole world the joy of  
salvation.

℟. Come, and remain with us, Word of the Father.

Jesus Saviour, whose name was revealed by the Angel to  
Joseph, the righteous man, — come and save your people  
from their sins.

℟. Come, and remain with us, Word of the Father.

Light of the world, whom Simeon and all the righteous  
awaited, — come and console us.

℟. Come, and remain with us, Word of the Father.

Jesus, Word made flesh, who reveal the Father's love, —  
nourish us on all that you say that we may recognise the  
Kingdom of heaven is at hand.

℟. Come, and remain with us, Word of the Father.

Unfailing dawn, whom Zechariah foretold would visit us  
from on high, — come and give light to those who dwell in  
the shadow of death.

℟. Come, and remain with us, Word of the Father.

As we look to the coming of God's kingdom, let us now pray  
in the words our Saviour gave us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

### **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Grant, almighty Father,

that when Christ comes again we may go out to meet him  
bearing the harvest of good works achieved by your grace.

We pray that he will receive us into the company of the saints  
and call us into the kingdom of heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

## BLESSING

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And with your spirit

℣. Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I say, rejoice.  
Let all know your forbearance.

The Lord is at hand.

And the peace of God which passes all understanding  
will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

℟. Amen.

℣. May the blessing of Almighty God,  
Father, Son and ☩ Holy Spirit be with you  
and those whom you love this day and forever.

℟. Amen.

or

℣. The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

℟. Amen

## DISMISSAL

℣. Go and announce the gospel of the Lord.

℟. Thanks be to God.

## CONCLUDING HYMN

- 1 God whose almighty Word  
chaos and darkness heard,  
and took their flight;  
hear us, we humbly pray,  
and where the Gospel-day  
sheds not its glorious ray  
let there be light!
- 2 Saviour who came to bring  
on your redeeming wing  
healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind,  
sight to the inly blind,  
ah! now to all mankind  
let there be light.
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,  
life-giving, holy dove,  
speed forth thy flight!  
Move on the water's face,  
bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place  
let there be light!
- 4 Blessed and holy Three,  
glorious Trinity,  
wisdom, love, might;  
boundless as ocean tide  
rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide  
let there be light!

J Marriott (1780-1825)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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# Prayer for the 'Year of the Word' 2020

Living God,  
You walk alongside us  
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.

Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
listens to our hopes and fears  
and shows us how to live for one another.

Send us the Holy Spirit  
to open our hearts and minds  
so that we may be your witnesses  
throughout the world.

Amen.

℣. Your word is our path  
and your truth is our light.

℟. This day and every day.

Our Lady of the Annunciation

St Matthew

St Jerome

pray for us.

pray for us.

pray for us.