

## The Order for Morning Prayer according to *The Book of Common Prayer*

Rend your hearts, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. *Joel 2. 13.*

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation.*

**ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy holy laws, We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, And we have done those things which we ought not to have done, And there is no health in us: But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

*Remission of sins is pronounced by the Priest as follows*

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

*Priest.* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Answer.* **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

*Priest.* O God, make speed to save us.

*Answer.* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Priest.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*Answer.* **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

*Priest.* Praise ye the Lord.

*Answer.* **The Lord's Name be praised.**

## **The Venite (Psalm 95)**

**O COME, let us sing unto the Lord :  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God :  
and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are all the corners of the earth :  
and the strength of the hills is his also.**

**The sea is his, and he made it :  
and his hands prepared the dry land.**

**O come, let us worship and fall down :  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is the Lord our God :  
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts :  
as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;**

**When your fathers tempted me :  
proved me, and saw my works.**

**Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said :  
It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways.**

**Unto whom I swear in my wrath :  
that they should not enter into my rest.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

## **Psalm 119. 65–72.**

65. O LORD, thou hast dealt graciously with thy servant: according unto thy word.

66. O learn me true understanding and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

67. Before I was troubled, I went wrong: but now have I kept thy word.

68. Thou art good and gracious: O teach me thy statutes.

69. The proud have imagined a lie against me: but I will keep thy commandments with my whole heart.

70. Their heart is as fat as brawn: but my delight hath been in thy law.

71. It is good for me that I have been in trouble: that I may learn thy statutes.

72. The law of thy mouth is dearer unto me: than thousands of gold and silver.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

### **First Lesson** *Isaiah 44.24–45.8.*

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer,  
who formed you in the womb:  
I am the LORD, who made all things,  
who alone stretched out the heavens,  
who by myself spread out the earth;  
who frustrates the omens of liars,  
and makes fools of diviners;  
who turns back the wise,  
and makes their knowledge foolish;  
who confirms the word of his servant,  
and fulfills the prediction of his messengers;  
who says of Jerusalem, "It shall be inhabited,"  
and of the cities of Judah, "They shall be rebuilt,  
and I will raise up their ruins";  
who says to the deep, "Be dry—  
I will dry up your rivers";  
who says of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd,  
and he shall carry out all my purpose";  
and who says of Jerusalem, "It shall be rebuilt,"  
and of the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid."

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,  
whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him  
and strip kings of their robes,  
to open doors before him—

and the gates shall not be closed:  
I will go before you  
and level the mountains,<sup>[a]</sup>  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
I will give you the treasures of darkness  
and riches hidden in secret places,  
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,  
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.  
For the sake of my servant Jacob,  
and Israel my chosen,  
I call you by your name,  
I surname you, though you do not know me.  
I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
so that they may know, from the rising of the sun  
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.  
I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things.  
Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,<sup>[b]</sup>  
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;  
I the LORD have created it.

## ***Te Deum Laudamus***

**WE praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.  
All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.  
To thee all Angels cry aloud : the heavens, and all the powers therein.  
To thee Cherubin and Seraphin : continually do cry,  
Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty : of thy glory.  
The glorious company of the Apostles : praise thee.  
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise thee.  
The noble army of Martyrs : praise thee.  
The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge thee;  
The Father : of an infinite Majesty;  
Thine honourable, true : and only Son;  
Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.  
Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.  
Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.**

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man : thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.  
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death : thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the glory of the Father.  
We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.  
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants : whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.  
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints : in glory everlasting.  
O Lord, save thy people : and bless thine heritage.  
Govern them : and lift them up for ever.  
Day by day : we magnify thee;  
And we worship thy Name : ever world without end.  
Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without sin.  
O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon us.  
O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us : as our trust is in thee.  
O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let me never be confounded.

## **Second Lesson** *Revelation 12. 1–12*

A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. <sup>4</sup>His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule<sup>[a]</sup> all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred sixty days.

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming,

“Now have come the salvation and the power  
and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of his Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup>  
for the accuser of our comrades<sup>[a]</sup> has been thrown down,  
who accuses them day and night before our God.  
But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb  
and by the word of their testimony,  
for they did not cling to life even in the face of death.  
<sup>12</sup> Rejoice then, you heavens  
and those who dwell in them!  
But woe to the earth and the sea,  
for the devil has come down to you

with great wrath,  
because he knows that his time is short!"

## **Benedictus**

- 1 **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel :**  
for he hath visited, and redeemed his people;
- 2 **And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us :**  
in the house of his servant David;
- 3 **As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets :**  
which have been since the world began;
- 4 **That we should be saved from our enemies :**  
and from the hands of all that hate us;
- 5 **To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers :**  
and to remember his holy covenant;
- 6 **To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham :**  
that he would give us,
- 7 **That we being delivered out of the hands of our enemies :**  
might serve him without fear,
- 8 **In holiness and righteousness before him :**  
all the days of our life.
- 9 **And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest :**  
for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
- 10 **To give knowledge of salvation unto his people :**  
for the remission of their sins;
- 11 **Through the tender mercy of our God :**  
whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us;
- 12 **To give light to them that sit in darkness,**  
and in the shadow of death :  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

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

## **The Apostles' Creed**

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:**  
**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin**  
**Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The**  
**third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God**  
**the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**  
**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of**  
**sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.**

*Priest.* The Lord be with you.

*Answer.* **And with thy spirit.**

*Priest.* Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*Answer.* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

*Priest.* O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

*Answer.* And grant us thy salvation.

*Priest.* O Lord, save the Queen.

*Answer.* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Priest.* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

*Answer.* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Priest.* O Lord, save thy people.

*Answer.* And bless thine inheritance.

*Priest.* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Answer.* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Priest.* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Answer.* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*The Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity.*

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain that which thou dost promise, make us to love that which thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Second Collect, for Peace.*

O GOD, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Third Collect, for Grace.*

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Reflection** from a treatise on belief and the nature of God, by St Irenaeus (130–202)

## **Intercessions**

... Lord, in thy mercy **hear our prayer.**

*A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

**Blessing** composed by The Rt Rev Timothy Omotayo Olufosoye (c. 1907/12–1992), first Primate of Nigeria