

Wednesday Worship

St Alban, Evening Prayer.

16th June 7.30pm

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Newbury, St George & St John



Evening Prayer

St Alban

The First English Christian Martyr

*'For you will save a lowly people
and bring down the high looks of the proud.'*

Our service tonight remembers St Alban (BCP calendar today, and Monday in the lectionary). In our remembrance of the first English martyr we recall all who have died in the cause of good and those who dare to be different in the name of God.

Preparation

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

I love you, O Lord my strength. ◆
The Lord is my crag, my fortress and my deliverer.

In my distress I called upon the Lord ◆
and cried out to my God for help.

He heard my voice in his temple ◆
and my cry came to his ears.

He parted the heavens and came down ♦
and thick darkness was under his feet.

He rode upon the cherubim and flew; ♦
he came flying on the wings of the wind.

He made darkness his covering round about him, ♦
dark waters and thick clouds his pavilion.

From the brightness of his presence, through the clouds ♦
burst hailstones and coals of fire.

The Lord also thundered out of heaven; ♦
the Most High uttered his voice
with hailstones and coals of fire.

For you will save a lowly people ♦
and bring down the high looks of the proud.

You also shall light my candle; ♦
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

As for God, his way is perfect;
the word of the Lord is tried in the fire; ♦
he is a shield to all who trust in him.

Psalm 18.1, 6, 7, 10-14, 28, 29, 31

**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.**

Opening prayer

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

From Psalm 68

R Let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—
his name is the LORD—
be exultant before him. **R**

⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land. **R**

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel. **R**

**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.**

First Reading Wisdom 3.1-4

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.

Second Reading John 12.24-26

Jesus said to his disciples: Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

Reflection

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is said.

**Remember your promise of mercy,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ♦
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed; ♦
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him, ♦
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm ♦
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones ♦
and lifting up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things ♦
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, ♦
to remember his promise of mercy,

The promise made to our ancestors, ♦
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**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.**

**Remember your promise of mercy,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Prayers

*Intercessions are offered
These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer
(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Eternal Father, when the gospel of Christ first came to our land you gloriously confirmed the faith of Alban by making him the first to win a martyr's crown: grant that, following his example, in the fellowship of the saints we may worship you, the living God, and give true witness to Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said

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.**

(or)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.