



EVENING PRAYER

ORDINARY TIME



Newbury, St George & St John

**Welcome to Evening Prayer
with St George the Martyr Wash Common and
St. John the Evangelist, Newbury.**

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

We invite you to participate with us in this service as part of the Churches Liturgical season of Ordinary Time; the period between Pentecost and Advent. The prayers are very simple to follow, and there will be a short reflection too.

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Newbury, St George & St John

The Greeting

A candle is lit.

The officiant says:

The Lord is my light and my salvation:
my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night:
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As darkness falls you renew your promise
to reveal among us the light of your presence.

By the light of Christ, your living Word,
dispel the darkness of our hearts
that we may walk as children of light
and sing your praise throughout the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God for ever.

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

First Scripture Reading *Song of Solomon 3.1-4*

Upon my bed at night

I sought him whom my soul loves;

I sought him, but found him not;

I called him, but he gave no answer.

'I will rise now and go about the city,

in the streets and in the squares;

I will seek him whom my soul loves.'

I sought him, but found him not.

The sentinels found me,

as they went about in the city.

'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?'

Scarcely had I passed them,

when I found him whom my soul loves.

I held him, and would not let him go

until I brought him into my mother's house,

and into the chamber of her that conceived me.

A Song of the Blessed *may be said*

Refrain:

Rejoice and be glad

for you are the light of the world,

and great is your reward in heaven.

1 Blessed are the poor in spirit, •
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2 Blessed are those who mourn, •
for they shall be comforted.

3 Blessed are the meek, •
for they shall inherit the earth.

4 Blessed are those who hunger
and thirst after righteousness, •
for they shall be satisfied.

5 Blessed are the merciful, •
for they shall obtain mercy.

6 Blessed are the pure in heart, •
for they shall see God.

7 Blessed are the peacemakers, •
for they shall be called children of God.

8 Blessed are those who suffer persecution
for righteousness' sake, •
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5.3-10

**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.**

**Rejoice and be glad
for you are the light of the world,
and great is your reward in heaven.**

Second Scripture Reading

Gospel Reading *John 20.1-2, 11-18*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Short Reflective Homily

Followed by a period of reflection

This responsory may follow

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

And afterwards receive me with glory.

from Psalm 73

Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary) is normally said,

Refrain:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 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

The response below may be used at the end of each bidding.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Collect *of the day is said*

Almighty God,
whose Son restores Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body
and called her to be a witness to his resurrection:
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life;
who is alive and reigns with you,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

The Lord's Prayer *is said*

As our Saviour has 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.

Closing Responses

Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
a light no darkness can quench.

Stay with us Lord, it is evening:
and the day is almost over.

The darkness is not dark to you:
the night is as bright as the day.

Let your light scatter the darkness:
and fill your church with your glory.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

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