



**EVENING PRAYER**  
*The Way of Saint Benedict*



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 we close the day in prayer.

*Benedictine Way of Life*

The wisdom of Benedict's Rule lies in its flexibility, its tolerance for individual differences, and its openness to change. For over 1500 years, it has remained a powerful and relevant guide for those who would seek God in the ordinary circumstances of life.

Benedictines make three vows: stability, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and obedience. Though promises of poverty and chastity are implied in the Benedictine way, stability, fidelity, and obedience receive primary attention in the Rule – perhaps because of their close relationship with community life.

The liturgy has never been a static prayer, down the years it has changed, its living times and people. Prayer unites the community, often five times a day. Living the Gospel in the spirit of prayer is the way of St Benedict.

Today, we commemorate Scholastica, Abbess of Plombariola, c.543, the sister of Saint Benedict, the founder of the Benedictine Order.

*Please put your settings on mute for the service until the closing blessing where we will all respond.*



Newbury, St George & St John

## The Greeting

*A candle is lit.*

O God, make speed to save us.

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

From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**your glory is proclaimed in all the world.**

Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power,  
inspire our prayer,  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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.**

## **Psalm 119**

Refrain: **My delight shall be in your commandments.**

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, •  
and I will observe it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, that I may keep your law; •  
I shall keep it with my whole heart.

35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, •  
for therein is my delight.

36 Turn my heart to your decrees, •  
and not to selfish gain.

37 Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; •  
give me life in your ways.

38 Confirm to your servant your promise, •  
which is for those who fear you.

39 Turn away the disgrace that I dread, •  
for your ordinances are good.

40 See, I have longed for your commandments; •  
in your righteousness give me life.

41 Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, •  
your salvation according to your promise.

42 Then I shall have an answer for those who taunt me, •  
for I trust in your word.

43 Do not take the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, •  
for my hope is in your judgements.

44 So, shall I always keep your law; •  
I shall keep it for ever and ever.

Refrain:

**My delight shall be in your commandments.  
God of loving mercy,  
in this place of our pilgrimage  
turn the laws into songs,  
that we may find your promises  
fulfilled in Jesus Christ our Lord**

### **Scripture Readings**

Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-17

*These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.*

*In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’*

### **Canticle**

Refrain:

All **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 will be comforted.

- 3 Blessed are the meek, •  
for they will inherit the earth.
- 4 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, •  
for they will be filled.
- 5 Blessed are the merciful, •  
for they will receive mercy.
- 6 Blessed are the pure in heart, •  
for they will see God.
- 7 Blessed are the peacemakers, •  
for they will be called children of God.
- 8 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, •  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Matthew 5.3-10*

**All    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.**

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

**Gospel Reading**                      *Mark 7.14-23*

*Then he called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'*

*When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'*

## Short Reflection

### Gospel Canticle

*The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)*

Refrain: **Those who keep and teach the commandments  
will be considered great in heaven.**

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.**

Refrain:

**Those who keep and teach the commandments  
will be considered great in heaven.**

**Intercessions are offered**

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

*A Prayer of Saint Benedict*

O Gracious and Holy God,  
give us wisdom to perceive You,  
diligence to see You,  
patience to wait for You,  
a heart to meditate upon You,  
and a life to proclaim You,  
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God, may we, like Saint Scholastica,  
serve you with an unsullied love.  
Then our joy will be full  
as we receive from your loving hand  
all that we desire and ask.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** *is said*

Believing the promises of God,  
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 Blessing**

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

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**







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