



# Gregory and Macrina. Speaking The Unspeakable

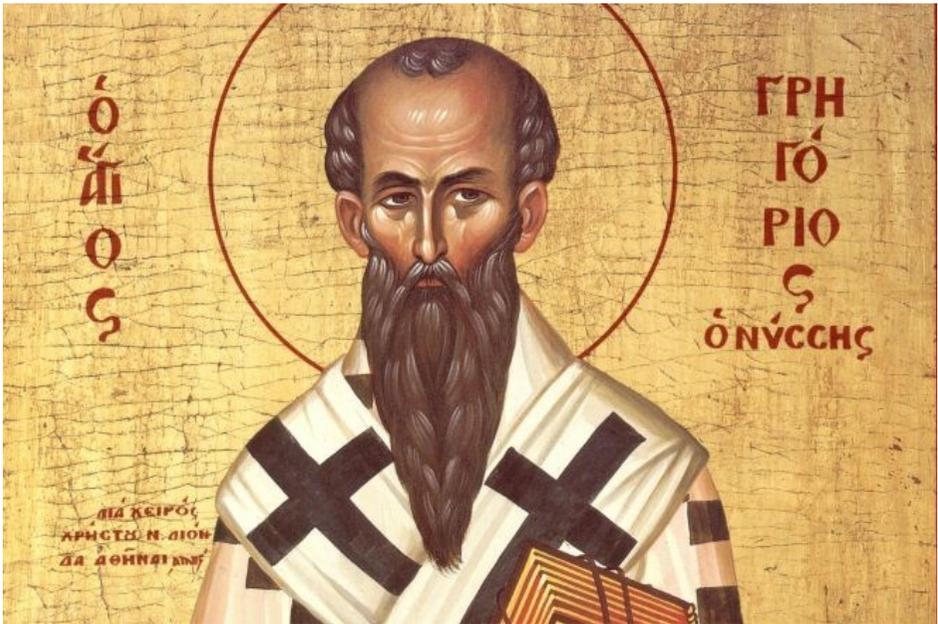
Evening Prayer  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2021



Newbury, St George & St John

**Welcome to Evening Prayer  
with the churches of St George and St John, Newbury.**

We invite you to participate with us in this ancient service as we close the day in prayer.



‘Every concept that comes from some comprehensible image, [...] constitutes a idol of God and does not proclaim God.’

‘Concepts create idols; only wonder comprehends anything. People kill one another over idols. Wonder makes us fall to our knees.’

Moses’ vision began with light; afterwards God spoke to him in a cloud. But when Moses rose higher and became more perfect, he saw God in the darkness

*Life of Moses, Gregory of Nyssa*

## **The Greeting**

*A candle is lit.*

O God, make speed to save us.

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

## **The Velvet Underground—Jesus**

### **Via Negativa** *RS Thomas*

Why no! I never thought other than  
That God is that great absence  
In our lives, the empty silence  
Within, the place where we go  
Seeking, not in hope to  
Arrive or find. He keeps the interstices  
In our knowledge, the darkness  
Between stars. His are the echoes  
We follow, the footprints he has just  
Left. We put our hands in  
His side hoping to find  
It warm. We look at people  
And places as though he had looked  
At them, too; but miss the reflection.

**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.**

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 13

*Refrain: I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication.*

How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever? •

How long will you hide your face from me?

**How long shall I have anguish in my soul  
and grief in my heart, day after day? •**

**How long shall my enemy triumph over me?**

Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God; •  
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

**Lest my enemy say, 'I have prevailed against him,' •  
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.**

But I put my trust in your steadfast love; •  
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.

**I will sing to the Lord, •  
for he has dealt so bountifully with me.**

*Refrain: I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication.*

**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.**

A Song of the Blessed

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

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

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

Blessed are the meek, •

for they shall inherit the earth.

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

Blessed are the merciful, •

for they shall obtain mercy.

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

Blessed are the peacemakers, •

for they shall be called children of God.

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

**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.***

**Scripture Reading**      Luke 22.39-46

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, 'Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.'

## Gregory of Nyssa and Speaking the Unspeakable

### *Short reflection*

#### **Canticle**

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.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

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

#### **The Magnificat** (*The Song of Mary*)

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> He has mercy on those who fear him, •  
from generation to generation.

<sup>4</sup> **He has shown strength with his arm •  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**

<sup>5</sup> Casting down the mighty from their thrones •  
and lifting up the lowly.

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

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

<sup>8</sup>**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.**

**Prayers.**

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

**The Collect**

Lord of eternity, creator of all things,  
in your Son Jesus Christ  
you open for us the way to resurrection  
that we may enjoy your bountiful goodness:  
may we who celebrate your servants Gregory and Macrina  
press onwards in faith to your boundless love  
and ever wonder at the miracle of your presence among us;  
through 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.

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

Let us pray in 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.**

**Forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For theine is the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**Nick Cave—Into My Arms**

May our desire ever grow,  
May the mystery ever deepen,  
May the hunger for justice ever disturb  
And the wonder ever increase  
As we live in the mystery of Humanity, Planet and God.  
**Amen.**

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

**Benefice of St George and St John.**

**Online Liturgy 2021**

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