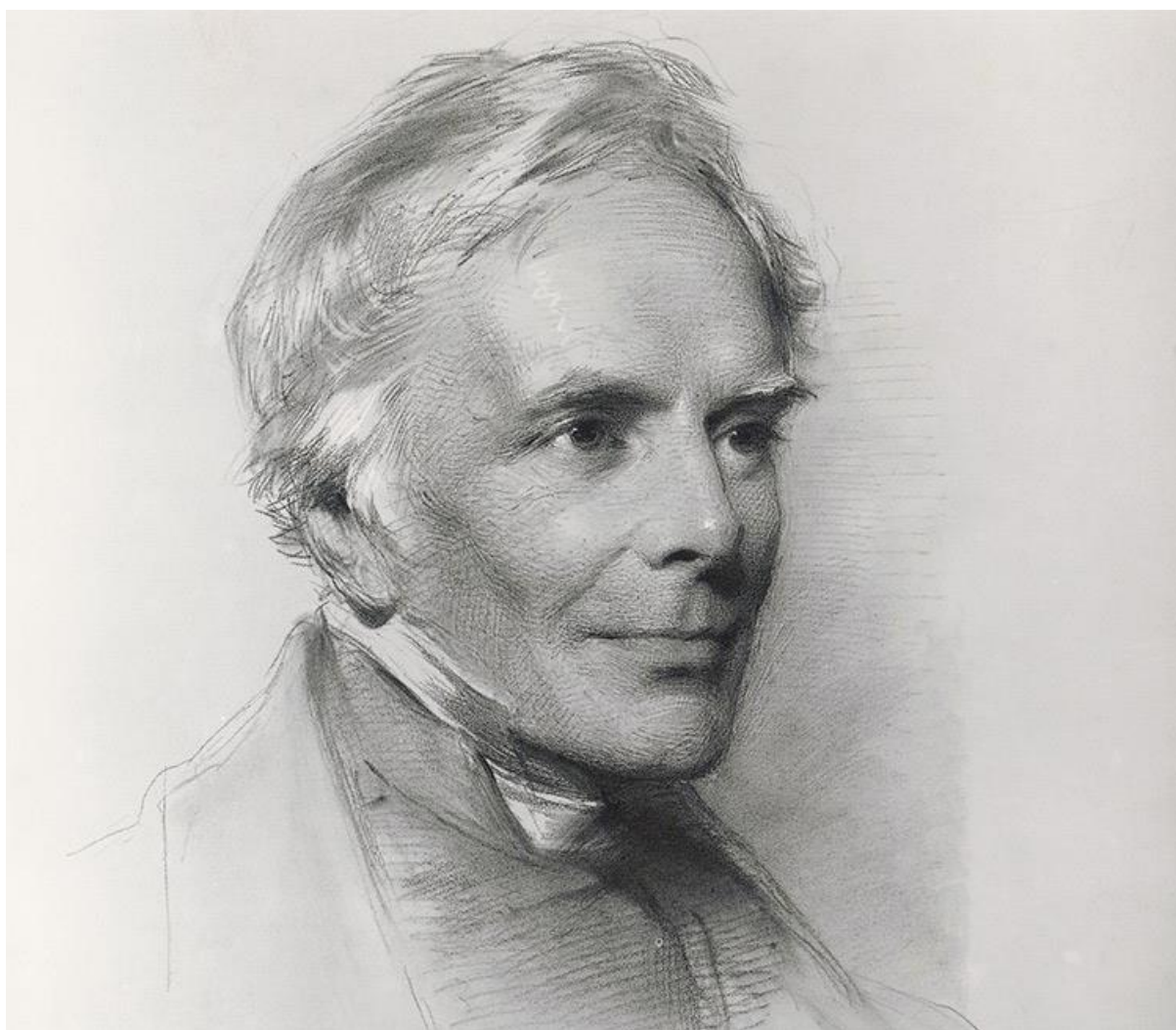


*Evening Prayer on Wednesday*

*Wednesday, 14 July 2021*

*John Keble, Priest, Tractarian, Poet, 1866 [Lesser Festival]*

**"Thy GOD forgives—thou shalt not die."**



## Preparation

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

### *The Blessing of the Light*

*A lamp or candle may be lit.*

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.**

**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.**

*This opening prayer may be said*

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.*

#### *Psalm 136*

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*
- 2 Give thanks to the God of gods, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*
- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 4 Who alone does great wonders, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 7 Who made the great lights, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 8 The sun to rule the day, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 10 Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 11 And brought out Israel from among them, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 12 With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 13 Who divided the Red Sea in two, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*
- 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

15But Pharaoh and his host he overthrew in the Red Sea, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

16Who led his people through the wilderness, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

17Who smote great kings, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

18And slew mighty kings, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

19Sihon, king of the Amorites, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

20And Og, the king of Bashan, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

21And gave away their land for a heritage, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

22A heritage for Israel his servant, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

23Who remembered us when we were in trouble, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

24And delivered us from our enemies, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever;*

25Who gives food to all creatures, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*

26Give thanks to the God of heaven, ◆  
*for his mercy endures for ever.*

*Remember us, O God, and shape our history,  
form our inward eyes  
to see the shadow of the life-giving cross  
in the turbulence of our time;  
for his sake who died for all,  
Christ our Lord.*

**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.**

## 2 Samuel 12

<sup>1</sup>and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. <sup>2</sup>The rich man had very many flocks and herds; <sup>3</sup>but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meagre fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. <sup>4</sup>Now there came a traveller to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." <sup>5</sup>Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; <sup>6</sup>he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." <sup>7</sup>Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; <sup>8</sup>I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. <sup>9</sup>Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. <sup>10</sup>Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. <sup>11</sup>Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbour, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. <sup>12</sup>For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." <sup>13</sup>David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan said to David, "Now the LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die."

### *Canticle*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8Blessed 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.**

### ***Reading***

#### ***Poem for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity (The Christian Year; John Keble)***

When bitter thoughts, of conscience born,  
With sinners wake at morn,  
When from our restless couch we start,  
With fevered lips and withered heart,  
Where is the spell to charm those mists away,  
And make new morning in that darksome day?  
One draught of spring's delicious air,  
One steadfast thought, that GOD is there.

These are Thy wonders, hourly wrought,  
Thou Lord of time and thought,  
Lifting and lowering souls at will,  
Crowding a world of good or ill  
Into a moment's vision; e'en as light  
Mounts o'er a cloudy ridge, and all is bright,  
From west to east one thrilling ray  
Turning a wintry world to May.

Would'st thou the pangs of guilt assuage?  
Lo! here an open page,  
Where heavenly mercy shines as free

Written in balm, sad heart, for thee.  
Never so fast, in silent April shower,  
Flushed into green the dry and leafless bower,  
As Israel's crowned mourner felt  
The dull hard stone within him melt.

The absolver saw the mighty grief,  
And hastened with relief; -  
"The Lord forgives; thou shalt not die:"  
Twas gently spoke, yet heard on high,  
And all the band of angels, used to sing  
In heaven, accordant to his raptured string,  
Who many a month had turned away  
With veiled eyes, nor owned his lay,

Now spread their wings, and throng around  
To the glad mournful sound,  
And welcome, with bright open face,  
The broken heart to love's embrace.  
The rock is smitten, and to future years  
Springs ever fresh the tide of holy tears  
And holy music, whispering peace  
Till time and sin together cease.

There drink: and when ye are at rest,  
With that free Spirit blest,  
Who to the contrite can dispense,  
The princely heart of innocence,  
If ever, floating from faint earthly lyre,  
Was wafted to your soul one high desire,  
By all the trembling hope ye feel,  
Think on the minstrel as ye kneel:

Think on the shame, that dreadful hour  
When tears shall have no power,  
Should his own lay th' accuser prove,  
Cold while he kindled others' love:  
And let your prayer for charity arise,  
That his own heart may hear his melodies,  
And a true voice to him may cry,  
"Thy GOD forgives—thou shalt not die."

***A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, 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.**

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.**

*from Psalm 73*

### ***Gospel Canticle***

**Well done, good and faithful servant:  
you have been faithful over a little, I will make you ruler over much.**

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.**

**Well done, good and faithful servant:  
you have been faithful over a little, I will make you ruler over much.**

## **Prayers**

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

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Collect of the day is said*

Father of the eternal Word,  
in whose encompassing love  
all things in peace and order move:  
grant that, as your servant John Keble  
    adored you in all creation,  
so we may have a humble heart of love  
    for the mysteries of your Church  
and know your love to be new every morning,  
in 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.**

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.**

## **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.**

©

The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005