

## Evening Prayer on Sunday 11 October 2020

O God, make speed to save us.

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

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 139.1–18*

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

**2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

3 For there is not a word on my tongue,  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

**4 You encompass me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.**

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
so high that I cannot attain it.

**6 Where can I go then from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?**

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

**8 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**

9 Even there your hand shall lead me,  
your right hand hold me fast.

**10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me  
and the light around me turn to night,'**

11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;

the night is as clear as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.

**12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

**14 My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.**

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;  
already in your book were all my members written,

**16 As day by day they were fashioned  
when as yet there was none of them.**

17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

**18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,  
and at the end, I am still in your presence.**

**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.**

*Reading from the gospel of Matthew (22.1–14)*

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and

foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

*Responsory*

The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.

**The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

**The Lord is the strength of my life.**

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

**The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life.**

*Sermon*

*Music for reflection*

*The Magnificat (Luke 1.46-55)*

**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.**

**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.**

*Intercessions using the response*

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, in your mercy, hear us**

*Silence may be kept.*

*Collect*

God, our judge and saviour, teach us to be open to your truth and to trust in your love, that we may live each day with confidence in the salvation which is given through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 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.**