

Thursday

Morning Prayer



**Chosen,
Called,
Commissioned**

We begin our day in worship and collective prayer. The readings for this service reflect the theme of the coming day: 'Commissioned: For the sake of God's world.' In the 'servant song' of Isaiah and in the vision of St Peter, we hear God's promise that the reach of his love extends beyond the artificial limits imposed by human minds, and God's call to participate in his mission, so that his salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

There are suggestions for posture throughout the service, maintaining the ancient tradition of standing for praise and collective prayer. These are invitations rather than suggestions, and you are always welcome to remain seated or to take up a more comfortable posture.

Front cover: Lucy Bingham

All songs covered by Christian Copyright Licensing International Ltd have been reproduced under CCL No. 22305368. All other songs have been reproduced by permission of the copyright holders.

Preparation

You are invited to stand if you are comfortably able.

Officiant O Lord, open our lips

All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant Your faithful servants bless you.

All **They make known the glory of your kingdom.**

Hymn



**We turn to Christ anew
who hear his call today,
his way to walk, his will pursue,
his word obey.**

**To serve him as our King
and of his kingdom learn,
from sin and every evil thing
to him we turn.**

**We trust in Christ to save;
in him new life begins:
who by his cross a ransom gave
from all our sins.**

**Our spirits' strength and stay
who when all flesh is dust
will keep us on that final day,
in him we trust.**

We would be true to him
till earthly journeys end,
whose love no passing years can dim,
our changeless friend.
May we who bear his name
our faith and love renew,
to follow Christ our single aim,
and find him true.

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926–2024)

Copyright © Timothy Dudley-Smith/ OUP,

Tune: Leoni, Hebrew melody, notated by Thomas Olivers (1725–1799)

Officiant The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Word of God

Psalm 96

Please sit. The whole congregation joins in with the text in bold and pauses together at the diamond, taking our cue from the officiant.

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 **Sing to the Lord and bless his name ♦**
tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations ♦
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised ♦**
he is more to be feared than all gods.

- 5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols ♦
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 **Honour and majesty are before him ♦
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.**
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦
bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦
let the sea thunder and all that is in it.
- 12 **Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.**
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.
- 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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 49: 1–6

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength –

he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Reader Your word, O Lord, is a lantern to our feet:
All **and a light upon our path.**

Second Reading

Acts 11: 1–8

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."

This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Reader Your word, O Lord, is a lantern to our feet:
All **and a light upon our path.**

Responsory
from Psalm 89

Leader I will sing forever of your love, O Lord,
All **my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

Leader The heavens bear witness to your wonders
All **I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.**

Leader The assembly of your saints proclaims your truth
All **my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

Leader Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne,
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.
All **I will sing forever of your love, O Lord;
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

You are invited to stand if you are comfortably able.

Gospel Canticle

The Benedictus



Now bless the God of Israel who comes in love and power,
Who raises from the royal house deliv'rance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,
To save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear,
That we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year.
And you, my child, shall go before, to preach, to prophesy,
That all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
Our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace,
that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One, O worship and adore.

(second half of tune)

To God the Father, fount of grace, through his beloved Son,
With God their Spirit, bond of love, be glory ever One.

Words: Ruth Duck © 1992 GIA Publications Ltd.

*Tune: Kingsfold, English traditional melody,
collected by R Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)*

Please sit or kneel to pray.

Prayers

Officiant In communion with all the saints,
let us commend the world
to the mercy and protection of God.

Silence is kept.

Officiant Almighty God, who called your Church to witness
that in Christ you were reconciling the world to yourself:
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be reconciled to you
through him who died for us and rose again
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour gave us:

All **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.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

You are invited to stand if you are comfortably able.

The Conclusion

Leader May Christ, who sends us to the nations,
give us the power of his Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Liturgy taken from Common Worship Daily Prayer.

Some liturgical materials in this service are copyright and reproduced here by permission: Common Worship © The Archbishops' Council 2000–2008.

Scripture readings are taken from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



oxford.anglican.org/clergy-conference

