

OPENING RESPONSES:

O Lord, open thou our lips.
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM:

Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way *
and walk in the law of the Lord.
Blessed are they that keep his testimonies *
and seek him with their whole heart.
For they who do no wickedness *
walk in his ways.
Thou hast charged *
that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.
O that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep thy statutes!
So shall I not be confounded *
while I have respect unto all thy commandments.
I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart *
when I shall have learned the judgements of thy righteousness.
I will keep thy ceremonies *
O forsake me not utterly.
Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way *
even by ruling himself after thy word.
With my whole heart have I sought thee *
O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.
Thy words have I hid within my heart *
that I should not sin against thee.
Blessed art thou, O Lord *
O teach me thy statutes.
With my lips have I been telling *
of all the judgements of thy mouth.
I have had as great delight in the way of thy testimonies *
as in all manner of riches.
I will talk of thy commandments *
and have respect unto thy ways.
My delight shall be in thy statutes *
and I will not forget thy word.
O do well unto thy servant *
that I may live, and keep thy word.
Open thou mine eyes *
that I may see the wondrous things of thy law.

I am a stranger upon earth *
O hide not thy commandments from me.
My soul breaketh out for the very fervent desire *
that it hath alway unto thy judgements.
Thou hast rebuked the proud *
and cursed are they that do err from thy commandments.
O turn from me shame and rebuke *
for I have kept thy testimonies.
Princes also did sit and speak against me *
but thy servant is occupied in thy statutes.
For thy testimonies are my delight *
and my counsellors.
My soul cleaveth to the dust *
O quicken thou me, according to thy word.
I have acknowledged my ways, and thou heardest me *
O teach me thy statutes.
Make me to understand the way of thy commandments *
and so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
My soul melteth away for very heaviness *
comfort thou me according unto thy word.
Take from me the way of lying *
and cause thou me to make much of thy law.
I have chosen the way of truth *
and thy judgements have I laid before me.
I have stuck unto thy testimonies *
O Lord, confound me not.
I will run the way of thy commandments *
when thou hast set my heart at liberty.
Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 3:21-4:22

A voice on the bare heights is heard,
the plaintive weeping of Israel's children,
because they have perverted their way,
they have forgotten the LORD their God:
Return, O faithless children,
I will heal your faithlessness.

'Here we come to you;
for you are the LORD our God.
Truly the hills are a delusion,
the orgies on the mountains.
Truly in the LORD our God
is the salvation of Israel.

'But from our youth the shameful thing has devoured all for which our ancestors had laboured, their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters. Let us lie down in our shame, and let our dishonour cover us; for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our ancestors, from our youth even to this day; and we have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.'

If you return, O Israel,
says the LORD,
if you return to me,
if you remove your abominations from my presence,
and do not waver,
and if you swear, 'As the LORD lives!'
in truth, in justice, and in uprightness,
then nations shall be blessed by him,
and by him they shall boast.

For thus says the LORD to the people of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem:
Break up your fallow ground,
and do not sow among thorns.
Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,
remove the foreskin of your hearts,
O people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,
or else my wrath will go forth like fire,
and burn with no one to quench it,
because of the evil of your doings.

Declare in Judah, and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say:
Blow the trumpet through the land;
shout aloud and say,
'Gather together, and let us go
into the fortified cities!'
Raise a standard towards Zion,
flee for safety, do not delay,
for I am bringing evil from the north,
and a great destruction.
A lion has gone up from its thicket,
a destroyer of nations has set out;
he has gone out from his place
to make your land a waste;
your cities will be ruins
without inhabitant.
Because of this put on sackcloth,
lament and wail:
'The fierce anger of the LORD
has not turned away from us.'

On that day, says the LORD, courage shall fail the king and the officials; the priests shall be appalled and the prophets astounded. Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD, how utterly you have deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, "It shall be well with you", even while the sword is at the throat!'

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert towards my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse— a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgement against them.
Look! He comes up like clouds,
his chariots like the whirlwind;
his horses are swifter than eagles—
woe to us, for we are ruined!
O Jerusalem, wash your heart clean of wickedness
so that you may be saved.
How long shall your evil schemes
lodge within you?

For a voice declares from Dan
and proclaims disaster from Mount Ephraim.
Tell the nations, 'Here they are!'
Proclaim against Jerusalem,
'Besiegers come from a distant land;
they shout against the cities of Judah.
They have closed in around her like watchers of a field,
because she has rebelled against me,
says the LORD.
Your ways and your doings
have brought this upon you.
This is your doom; how bitter it is!
It has reached your very heart.'

My anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain!
Oh, the walls of my heart!
My heart is beating wildly;
I cannot keep silent;
for I hear the sound of the trumpet,
the alarm of war.
Disaster overtakes disaster,
the whole land is laid waste.
Suddenly my tents are destroyed,
my curtains in a moment.
How long must I see the standard,
and hear the sound of the trumpet?
'For my people are foolish,
they do not know me;
they are stupid children,
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil,
but do not know how to do good.'

MAGNIFICAT:

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine. Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance.

Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behaviour, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited.

Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. Show yourself in all respects a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity, and sound speech that cannot be censured; then any opponent will be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

NUNC DIMITTIS:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen:
thy salvation.
Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people.
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
In earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.
And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS

In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, prayers for the Universal Church of God:

O God, whose will it is that all your children should be one in Christ; we pray for the unity of your Church. Pardon all our pride and our lack of faith, of understanding and of charity, which are the causes of our divisions. Deliver us from narrow-mindedness, from our bitterness, from our prejudices. Save us from considering as normal that which is a scandal to the world and an offence to your love. Teach us to recognise the gifts of grace among all those who call upon you and confess the faith of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Creator of rainbows,
come through the closed doors
of our emotions, mind and imagination;
come alongside us as we walk,
come to us at work and worship,
come to our meetings and councils,
come and call us by name, call us to pilgrimage.

Wounded healer,
out of our dis-unity
may we be re-membered,
out of the pain of our division
may we see your glory.
Call us from present pre-occupation
to future community.

Spirit of Unity,
challenge our preconceptions,
enable us to grow in love and understanding,
accompany us on our journey together,
that we may go out with confidence
into your world as a new creation –
one body in you,
that the world may believe.

Kate McIlhagga

O God, bless and preserve thy Church dispersed over the face of the earth. Restore to it unity and concord, in the acknowledgement of the Truth and the practice of righteousness. Remove out of it all errors and dissensions, that they who profess the same faith may no longer persecute and destroy one another, but be kind and tender-hearted one towards the other, as it becomes brethren and those that are heirs of the same common salvation.

(King) William III

Pause for **SILENT REFLECTION**

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

THE GRACE

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.

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Hymns suitable for use at home:

ICH 369

Songs of praise the angels sang,
heaven with alleluias rang,
when creation was begun,
when God spoke and it was done.

Heaven and earth must pass away,
songs of praise shall crown that day;
God will make new heavens, new earth,
songs of praise shall hail their birth.

Songs of praise awoke the morn
when the Prince of Peace was born;
songs of praise arouse when he
captive led captivity.

Saints below, with heart and voice,
still in songs of praise rejoice,
learning here, by faith and love,
songs of praise to sing above.

Borne upon their final breath,
songs of praise shall conquer death;
then, amidst eternal joy,
songs of praise their powers employ.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854)
Tune: NORTHAMPTON C. J. King (1859-1934)

ICH 281

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice! Again I say: Rejoice!

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail,
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:

He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:

Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) based on Philippians 4:4
Tune: GOPSAL G. F. Handel (1685-1759)