

LITURGY

A liturgical service is designed to engage the active participation of the worshippers. Bold lettering directs the congregation to say something in unison. Feel free to join in or just listen to the words being spoken.

This service may be used when no priest is present to celebrate communion, or for some extraordinary circumstance. It may also be used by any member of the church who wishes to structure their personal devotions in accordance with Anglican prayer.

Morning Prayer

GATHERING and WELCOME

OPENING PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE [On pages 21 AND 22]

CONFESSION OF SIN

Dearly beloved, the Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our manifold sins and offences, not concealing them from our heavenly Father, but confessing them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God, but especially when we come together in his presence to give thanks for the great benefits we have received at his hands, to declare his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and others, those things necessary for our life and our salvation. Therefore, come with me to the throne of heavenly grace.

[Silence is kept for reflection and private prayer]

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the deceits and desires of our own hearts; we have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But, may you have mercy upon us, O Lord. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

If a deacon or layperson is leading they pray: "Grant your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord." **Amen.**

COMMENTARY ON THE VENITE "This Psalm has been used from time immemorial as an introduction to the praises of Divine Service; and was probably adopted by the Church from the services of the Temple. It was perhaps such a familiar use of it in both the Jewish and the Christian system of Divine Service which led to the exposition of it given in the third chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, where the Apostle is shewing the connection between the two dispensations, and the way in which all belief and worship centres in our Divine High Priest and perpetual Sacrifice" (J.H. Blunt, The Annotated Book of Common Prayer).

[ALL STAND]

O Lord, open our lips;

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us;

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

The VENITE may be said or sung followed by Hymns or Songs [see leaflet]

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; *

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the depths of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, *

and we are the people of his pasture,

and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your hearts *

as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness,

When your fathers tested me, *

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation and said, *

"It is a people that err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways,"

Of whom I swore in my wrath *

that they should not enter into my rest.

Psalm 95

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Catechesis

The Psalms [see leaflet]

COMMENTARY ON THE CANTICLES - "A leading principle of all the Canticles appears to be that of connecting the written with the personal Word of God; and that as much in respect to the Old Testament Lessons as to those taken out of the Gospel or other parts of the New Testament. This is more especially true of those Canticles which are placed first of the two in each case, the Te Deum, the Benedictus, the Magnificat, and the Nunc Dimittis. The three latter of these were inspired hymns spoken at the time when the Eternal Word was in the act of taking our nature to redeem and glorify it; and the first is, if not inspired, the most wonderful expression of praise for the abiding incarnation of our Lord that uninspired lips have ever uttered. It may also be observed that the Canticles are set where they are, not that they may apply to any particular chapters of the Holy Bible, though they often do so in a striking manner, but with reference to Divine revelation as a whole, given to mankind by God in His mercy and love, and therefore a matter for deepest thankfulness and most exalted praise" (J.H. Blunt, *The Annotated Book of Common Prayer*).

The First Lesson [see leaflet]

Then may be said the Te Deum

We praise you, O God; we acclaim you as Lord; *
all creation worships you, the Father everlasting.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, *
the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise:
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of power and might, *
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you. *

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. *

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you:
Father, of majesty unbounded,

your true and only Son, worthy of all praise, *
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory, *

the eternal Son of the Father.

When you took our flesh to set us free *

you humbly chose the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death *

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory. *

We believe that you will come to be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people, *

bought with the price of your own blood,

and bring us with your saints *

to glory everlasting.

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;*

govern and uphold them now and always.

Day by day we bless you; *

we praise your Name for ever.

Keep us today, Lord, from all sin; *

have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Lord, show us your love and mercy, *

for we have put our trust in you.

In you, Lord, is our hope; *

let us never be put to shame.

COMMENTARY ON THE BENEDICTUS - "The position of this Canticle makes its ritual meaning self-evident. It is a thanksgiving to Almighty God for His mercy as exhibited towards mankind in the Incarnation of our Lord, whereof the Gospel speaks, and in the foundation of the Church in His blood, as recorded in the Acts of the Holy Apostles. It is the last prophecy of the Old Dispensation, and the first of the New, and furnishes a kind of key to the Evangelical interpretation of all prophecies under the one by which they are connected with the other. The Benedictus is a continual acknowledgement also of the Communion of Saints under the two Dispensations; for it praises God for the salvation which has been raised up for all ages out of the house of His servant David, and according to the ancient covenant which He made with Abraham, "the father of them that believe, though they be not circumcised" [Rom. 4:11]; whose seed all are if they are Christ's, and heirs according to the promise. [Gal. 3:29.] The use of the Benedictus by the Church indicates to us where we are to find true sympathy and communion with God's ancient people; not in their outward relationship to Abraham, "for God can of these stones raise up children unto Abraham," but in their faithful acknowledgement of the Lord Jesus, as the Christ Whom the Old Testament Scriptures predicted" (J.H. Blunt, *The Annotated Book of Common Prayer*).

The Second Lesson [see leaflet]

The Sermon

Then may be said or sung the Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour, *

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old

that he would save us from our enemies, *

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers *

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, *

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation *

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness

and in the shadow of death, *

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

LUKE 1:68-79

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

For an exposition on the Apostles' Creed please turn to pg. 60.

Let us confess the faith of our baptism as we say:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**
He will come again to judge the living 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.**

* I.e., universal

SONGS OF PRAISE [Please turn to the song sheet]

LISTENING TIME

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And 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 forever. Amen.

LISTENING TIME is an opportunity for everyone present to first of all listen to the LORD in silence. If during this time of listening the Lord lays something on your heart to share (perhaps a scripture verse, a word, or a picture) and you feel so led, please share it with the congregation. There is someone with a microphone who will ensure that your sharing is heard. To avoid potential correction by the pastor, please discern that what you are sharing is Biblical and in accordance with historic Christian teaching. If you are unsure of this, refrain from sharing and talk to one of the pastors.

The **COLLECTS** are short prayers that outline the glory and goodness of God, and present our specific needs to him in view of his gracious character. There is a different collect for each Sunday of the year. These prayers fix our hearts and minds on the things that really matter.

O Lord, show us your mercy;
And grant us your salvation.
O Lord, save our nations;
And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
And make your chosen people joyful.
O Lord, save your people;
And bless your inheritance.
Give peace in our time, O Lord;
For only in you can we live in safety.
Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
Create in us clean hearts, O God;
And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY [Please turn to the service leaflet for the collect
-- Two or more of the following collects shall then be prayed]

For peace:

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

For grace:

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the renewal of life:

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For strength to await Christ's return:

O God our King, by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ on the first day of the week, you conquered sin, put death to flight, and gave us the hope of everlasting life: Redeem all our days by this victory; forgive our sins, banish our fears, make us bold to praise you and to do your will; and steel us to wait for the consummation of your kingdom on the last great day; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For guidance:

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For endurance:

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

For sabbath rest:

Almighty God, who after the creation of the world rested from all your works and sanctified a day of rest for all your creatures: Grant that we, putting away all earthly anxieties, may be duly prepared for the service of your sanctuary, and that our rest here upon earth may be a preparation for the eternal rest promised to your people in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For clergy and congregations:

Almighty and everlasting God, who alone works great marvels: Send down upon our clergy and the congregations committed to their charge the life-giving Spirit of your grace, shower them with the continual dew of your blessing, and ignite in them a zealous love of your Gospel, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS - we pray for the world and ourselves, pg 44.

TESTIMONIAL AND THANKSGIVING is done in obedience to Scripture (Mark 5:19 and 1 Thessalonians 5:18). Here we have an opportunity to share with one another and give thanks to the LORD for all he has done for us.

PRAYER MINISTRY is available at this time in the library. Prayer and anointing with oil is also available upon request.

IF YOU ARE NEW HERE, please introduce yourself to one of the members of the ministry team.

Please join us for refreshments following the service.

INTERCESSIONS

THE OFFERING HYMN, OR SONG

TESTIMONIAL AND THANKSGIVING

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING [May be prayed by all]

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.**

A PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM [PLEASE STAND]

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

FINAL HYMN or SONG [Please turn to the song sheet]

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen. 2 Corinthians 13.14

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.