

Evening Prayer Christmas Season Sunday, 4 January 2026 ***The Second Sunday of Christmas***

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

You laid the foundation of the earth

and the heavens are the work of your hands.

HYMN

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

Psalm 135. 1-21

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

1 Alleluia.

Praise the name of the Lord; ♦
give praise, you servants of the Lord,

2 You that stand in the house of the Lord, ♦
in the courts of the house of our God.

3 Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; ♦
make music to his name, for it is lovely.

4 For the Lord has chosen Jacob for himself ♦
and Israel for his own possession.

5 For I know that the Lord is great ♦
and that our Lord is above all gods.

6 The Lord does whatever he pleases
in heaven and on earth, ♦
in the seas and in all the deeps.

7 He brings up the clouds from the ends of the earth; ♦
he makes lightning with the rain
and brings the winds out of his treasures.

8 He smote the firstborn of Egypt, ♦
the firstborn of man and beast.

9 He sent signs and wonders into your midst, O Egypt, ♦
upon Pharaoh and all his servants.

10 He smote many nations ♦
and slew mighty kings:

11 Sihon, king of the Amorites,
and Og, the king of Bashan, ♦
and all the kingdoms of Canaan.
12 He gave their land as a heritage, ♦
a heritage for Israel his people.
13 Your name, O Lord, endures for ever ♦
and shall be remembered through all generations.
14 For the Lord will vindicate his people ♦
and have compassion on his servants.
15 The idols of the nations are but silver and gold, ♦
the work of human hands.
16 They have mouths, but cannot speak; ♦
eyes have they, but cannot see;
17 They have ears, but cannot hear; ♦
neither is there any breath in their mouths.
18 Those who make them shall become like them, ♦
and so will all who put their trust in them.
19 Bless the Lord, O house of Israel; ♦
O house of Aaron, bless the Lord.
20 Bless the Lord, O house of Levi; ♦
you who fear the Lord, bless the Lord.
21 Blessed be the Lord from Zion, ♦
who dwells in Jerusalem.
Alleluia.

**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.**

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

Canticle

**Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

1 The Father has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, ♦
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son;
2 In whom we have redemption, ♦
the forgiveness of our sins.
3 He is the image of the invisible God, ♦
the firstborn of all creation.
4 For in him all things were created, ♦
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.
5 All things were created through him and for him, ♦
he is before all things and in him all things hold together.
6 He is the head of the body, the Church, ♦
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.
7 In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell; ♦
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things.

Colossians 1.13-18a, 19, 20a

**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.**

**Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

Scripture Reading

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

Isaiah 41.21 – 42.4

Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob. Let them bring them, and tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, so that we may consider them, and that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come. Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods; do good, or do harm, that we may be afraid and terrified. You, indeed, are nothing and your work is nothing at all; whoever chooses you is an abomination.

I stirred up one from the north, and he has come, from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name. He shall trample on rulers as on mortar, as the potter treads clay. Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know, and beforehand, so that we might say, 'He is right'? There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed, none who heard your words. I first have declared it to Zion, and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings. But when I look there is no one; among these there is no counsellor who, when I ask, gives an answer. No, they are all a delusion; their works are nothing; their images are empty wind.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Gospel Canticle

The Magnificat

**When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night was in the midst of her swift course:
from your royal throne, O God, down from the heavens,
leapt your almighty Word.**

- 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.**

Prayers

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us the new light of your incarnate Word,
and shown us the fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his light and dwell in his love
that we may know the fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**

The Conclusion

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.