

Evening Prayer for 4 February 2012 - Welcome

Welcome to Evening Prayer from St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow which will be shared in cyberspace in a Google+ Hangout and led by the Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth.

This is the ninth service that has been held in this way and we are still experimenting with it. One limitation is the number of people who can join in, which is currently limited to 10 people. It is believed that Google will soon enable people subsequent to the first 10 in the system to watch but not participate. It may be that if more than 10 people want to join in we need to split into two groups.

One of the things which causes some difficulty is the slight time lag between the different people speaking. This makes reciting something together a bit of a challenge and the delays would make singing something together impossible.

The service this evening will be led by 2 people – the leader and responder. These two people will keep their microphones on throughout. Everyone else is asked to click the mute button in their Google Hangout window for the first part of the service. Please unmute your microphone so that we can say the Magnificat and the Lord's Prayer together and so that you can contribute an intercession if you want to do so. Please join in aloud with all the prayers in bold, saying them with the responder.

The number of people attending will be recorded in the service book at St Mary's.

The service will begin at 1700 GMT. The hangout will be open from 1630.

The google+ page you are looking for is:

<https://plus.google.com/u/1/b/107606003325741850302/>

Week D – Saturday

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 shall be forever. Amen.**

Psalmody

As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God.

Opening - from Psalm 119

- 1 Your faithfulness remains from one generation to another *
you established the earth, and it abides.
- 2 **By your decree these continue to this day *
for all things are your servants.**
- 3 I will never forget your commandments, *
because by them you give me life.
- 4 **I see that all things come to an end, *
but your commandment has no bounds.**

**Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Psalms 42 and 43

- 1 As the deer longs for the water-brooks,*
so longs my soul for you, O God.
- 2 **My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;*
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?**
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night,*
while all day long they say to me, 'Where now is your God?'

- 4 I pour out my soul when I think on these things:***
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
- 5 With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,*
among those who keep holy-day.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?***
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 7 Put your trust in God;*
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
- 8 My soul is heavy within me;***
therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan,
and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.
- 9 One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts;*
all your rapids and floods have gone over me.
- 10 The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime;***
in the night season his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.
- 11 I will say to the God of my strength, ‘Why have you forgotten me?*
- and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?’
- 12 While my bones are being broken,***
my enemies mock me to my face;
- 13 All day long they mock me*
and say to me, ‘Where now is your God?’
- 14 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?***
and why are you so disquieted within me?
- 15 Put your trust in God;*
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.
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- 1 Give judgement for me, O God,
and defend my cause against an ungodly people;*
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.**
- 2 For you are the God of my strength;
why have you put me from you? *
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
- 3 Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,*
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;**
- 4 That I may go to the altar of God,
to the God of my joy and gladness;*
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
- 5 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?**
- 6 Put your trust in God;*
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Conclusion – from Revelation 5 and 15

- 1 Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God the Almighty; *
just and true are your ways, O King of the ages!
- 2 Who shall not revere and praise your name, O Lord? *
for you alone are holy.**
- 3 All nation shall come and worship in your presence, *
for your just dealing have been revealed.
- 4 To God who sits on the throne and to the Lamb *
be praise and honour, glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen**
**As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to the Lord our God.**

Readings

Hebrews 12: 12-29

Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Pursue peace with everyone, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and through it many become defiled. See to it that no one becomes like Esau, an immoral and godless person, who sold his birthright for a single meal. You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.' Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.') But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.' This phrase 'Yet once more' indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

John 7.14-36

About the middle of the festival Jesus went up into the temple and began to teach. The Jews were astonished at it, saying, 'How does this man have such learning, when he has never been taught?' Then Jesus answered them, 'My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. Anyone who resolves to do the will of God will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own. Those who speak on their own seek their own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and there is nothing false in him.'

'Did not Moses give you the law? Yet none of you keeps the law. Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?' The crowd answered, 'You have a demon! Who is trying to kill you?' Jesus answered them, 'I performed one work, and all of you are astonished. Moses gave you circumcision (it is, of course, not from Moses, but from the patriarchs), and you circumcise a man on the sabbath. If a man receives circumcision on the sabbath in order that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because I healed a man's whole body on the sabbath? Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement.'

Now some of the people of Jerusalem were saying, 'Is not this the man whom they are trying to kill? And here he is, speaking openly, but they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Messiah? Yet we know where this man is from; but when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.' Then Jesus cried out as he was teaching in the temple, 'You know me, and you know where I am from. I have not come on my own. But the one who sent me is true, and you do not know him. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me.' Then they tried to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him, because his hour had not yet come. Yet many in the crowd believed in him and were saying, 'When the Messiah comes, will he do more signs than this man has done?'

The Pharisees heard the crowd muttering such things about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent temple police to arrest him. Jesus then said, 'I will be with you a little while longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. You will search for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.' The Jews said to one another, 'Where does this man intend to go that we will not find him? Does he intend to go to the Dispersion among the Greeks and teach the Greeks? What does he mean by saying, "You will search for me and you will not find me" and, "Where I am, you cannot come"?'

Silence

Response – from Psalm 28.11

Lord your word is everlasting.

Lord your word is everlasting.

It stands firm in the heavens.

Your word is everlasting.

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

Lord, your word is everlasting.

Please unmute your microphone at this point.

Magnificat

God has come to the aid of his servant Israel
as he promised to Abraham and his children.

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

**You, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.**

**You have mercy on those who fear you
from generation to generation.**

**You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

**You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.**

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

God has come to the aid of his servant Israel
as he promised to Abraham and his children.

**Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Prayers

Anyone can offer a prayer at this point in the service.

Prayers may end with the bidding:

Lord in your mercy – **Hear our Prayer.**

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 in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Do not bring us to the time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

God of mercy, deliver those who are weighed down by fear and depression, and give them joy and gladness in your presence. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

Lord God almighty, come and dispel the darkness from our hearts, that in the radiance of your brightness we may know you, the only unfading light, glorious in all eternity. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing:
through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.