

# Wednesday & daily in Christmastide

## THE PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips  
**AND OUR MOUTH SHALL PROCLAIM YOUR PRAISE.**

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God, creator of all;  
To you be glory and praise for ever!  
[You founded the earth in the beginning  
and the heavens are the work of your hands.]  
As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us,  
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts  
and your praises ever be on our lips,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**BLESSÈD BE GOD FOR EVER!**

God comes to set us free:  
**O COME, LET US WORSHIP.**

Or, in Christmastide:  
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:  
**O COME, LET US WORSHIP.**

Or, on feasts of the BVM:  
Alleluia! Christ is the Son of Mary:  
**O COME, LET US WORSHIP. ALLELUIA!**

## THE OPENING CANTICLE:

### A SONG OF GOD'S GLORIOUS NAME

- 1 O Lord our governor,\*  
how exalted is your name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children\*  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,\*  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,\*  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What are mortals, that you should be mindful of them?\*mere human beings, that you should seek them out?
- 6 You have made them little lower than the angels;\*  
you adorn them with glory and honour.
- 7 You give them mastery over the works of your hands;\*  
and put all things under their feet,

- 8 All sheep and oxen,\*  
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,\*  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O Lord our governor,\*  
how exalted is your name in all the world!

Glory . . .

#### THE OPENING PRAYER

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

(Silence may be 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. **AMEN.**

#### THE PSALM

#### THE SECOND CANTICLE:

Either: A SONG OF THE MESSIAH

Refrain: **TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN;\***  
**WHO IS CALLED MIGHTY GOD AND PRINCE OF PEACE.**

- 1 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;\*  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
upon them the light has dawned.
- 2 You have increased their joy and given them great gladness;\*  
they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.
- 3 For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them;\*  
the collar that lay heavy on their shoulders.
- 4 For to us a child is born and to us a son is given,\*  
and the government will be upon his shoulder.
- 5 And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor; the Mighty God;\*  
the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.
- 6 Of the increase of his government and of peace\*  
there will be no end,

7 Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom,\*  
to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.

8 From this time forth and for evermore;\*  
the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Glory . . .

**TO US A CHILD IS BORN, TO US A SON IS GIVEN;\***  
**WHO IS CALLED MIGHTY GOD AND PRINCE OF PEACE.**

Or: A SONG OF GOD'S CHOSEN ONE

Refrain: **THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM,\***  
**THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING.**

1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse,\*  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,\*  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

3 The spirit of counsel and might,\*  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

4 He shall not judge by what his eyes see,\*  
or decide by what his ears hear,

5 But with righteousness he shall judge the poor,\*  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,\*  
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid.

7 The calf and the lion cub together,\*  
with a little child to lead them.

8 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,\*  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

Glory . . .

**THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM,\***  
**THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING.**

THE READING

THE RESPONSORY.

The Word of Life which was from the beginning,  
**WE PROCLAIM TO YOU.**

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining:  
**THE WORD OF LIFE WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING.**

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes and touched with our hands,  
**WE PROCLAIM TO YOU.**

For our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**THE WORD OF LIFE WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING,  
WE PROCLAIM TO YOU.**

THE BENEDICTUS

Refrain: **GOD PROMISED TO REMEMBER HIS HOLY COVENANT\*  
AND RAISED UP FOR US A MIGHTY SAVIOUR.**

Or, in Christmastide:  
**TO US IS BORN A SAVIOUR, WHO IS CHRIST THE LORD,\*  
AND ALL THE HEAVENLY HOSTS NOW SING,  
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!**

Or, on feasts of the BVM:  
**IN THE WOMB OF MARY,  
YOU FOUND A DWELLING PLACE ON EARTH, O CHRIST;\*  
REMAIN FOR EVER IN OUR HEARTS.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,\*  
for he has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,\*  
born of the house of his servant, David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old,\*  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 He promised to show mercy to our forebears\*  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:\*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,\*  
holy and righteous in his sight, all the days of our life.
- 7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,\*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation,\*  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God,\*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,\*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory ....

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#### THE PRAYERS:

Leader: Lord, have mercy.  
**ALL: LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

Leader: Christ, have mercy.  
**ALL: CHRIST, HAVE MERCY.**

Leader: Lord, have mercy.  
**ALL: LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

#### THE COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord . . .

Or:

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us in your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share our human nature,  
so we may be partakers in his divine glory;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,  
let us pray in faith and trust:

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

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life. **AMEN.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Or, in Christmastide:

May the grace of Christ our Saviour be with us all. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD.**