

EXPRESSIONS OF GRACE

An Evening Prayer based on
First Fruits



*Generous
Giving*



DIOCESE OF
YORK

¶ Preparation

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your path.

Proverbs 3.5-6

○ Lord, make speed to save us.

○ **Lord, make haste to help us.**

Through Christ let us offer our sacrifice of praise to God.

Let our lips proclaim your praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

Created in your image,

you shower us with blessings

and bestow upon us gifts of grace.

As you have made us a kingdom of priests,

may we offer the first fruits of our lives

and reveal your glory in all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

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 our hearts respond to your call,
seeking to grow in generosity,
and draw closer to you. **Amen.**

¶ The Word of God

Psalmody: Psalm 19

**The commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.**

- 1 The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
- 2 One day pours out its song to another
and one night unfolds knowledge to another.
- 3 They have neither speech nor language
and their voices are not heard,
- 4 Yet their sound has gone out into all lands
and their words to the ends of the world.
- 5 In them has he set a tabernacle for the sun,
that comes forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber
and rejoices as a champion to run his course.
- 6 It goes forth from the end of the heavens
and runs to the very end again,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- 7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.

- 9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter also than honey,
dripping from the honeycomb.
- 11 By them also is your servant taught
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can tell how often they offend
O cleanse me from my secret faults!
- 13 Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins
lest they get dominion over me;
so shall I be undefiled,
and innocent of great offence.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

**The commandment of the Lord is pure
and gives light to the eyes.**

Glory 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 First Reading

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
**In your wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Psalm 104.26

The first reading is read.

Your word is a lantern to my feet (or)
and a light upon my path.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsory

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

whoever diligently seeks good seeks favour.

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life.

Those who trust in their riches will wither,

but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water.

**The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
the righteous will flourish like green leaves.**

cf. Proverbs 11



Gospel Canticle

**Let us bring our gifts to the Lord
that they may be used for his glory.**

- 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.**

**Let us bring our gifts to the Lord
that they may be used for his glory.**

A short reflection may be given.

¶ Prayers

Let us pray to God,
that he will bring to fruition all that he desires.
For all we have received from you,
may our hearts be truly thankful.

Eternal God,
you call us into your church,
and entrust us with your work in the world.
Enable your Church in every place
to witness to the good news of your love by its work and actions,
and that it may be ready to gather fruit for eternal life.
For all we have received from you,
may our hearts be truly thankful.

Giving God,
we rejoice in the gift of your steadfast love,
and for the community in which you have set us.
We pray for one another and for ourselves,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
and reveal your glory to those with whom we share our lives.
For all we have received from you,
may our hearts be truly thankful.



Abundant God,
we thank you for the gifts you have given us.
We offer ourselves to your service,
asking that by the Spirit at work in us
others may receive rich blessings of love, generosity and peace.
For all we have received from you,
may our hearts be truly thankful.

Gracious God,
your Son Jesus Christ is the first-fruits of the resurrection
and will reap the harvest of the dead at the end of time:
we pray that he will gather us all together
with those who have gone before
in the banquet of the age to come.
For all we have received from you,
may our hearts be truly thankful.

Generous God,
you give us many gifts and make them grow:
though our faith may be small as a mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory
and the flourishing of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The Collect

God of abundance,
the author and giver of all good things,
grant us a gracious and humble heart,
that we may give you glory
through offering the first fruits of our lives,
and grow more into the likeness
of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Coming to God with thankful hearts,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**



¶ Conclusion

Father God,
you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world,
who gave up everything for us:
may the gifts we bring be our first fruits,
the very best we can offer,
and a sign of our grateful love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**Let us go onward to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's generosity
and to grow more into the likeness of Christ.
Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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