

Evensong (BCP) – Sunday 6th June

Opening Sentence

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all such things as their well-being doth require.

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God

A general Confession to be said of the whole Congregation after the Minister, all kneeling.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, We have offended against thy 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 thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders; Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord: And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Absolution or Remission of sins to be pronounced by the Priest, standing: the people still kneeling.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Cantor (sung). O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. **And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

Cantor. O God, make speed to save us.

Answer. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Here, all standing up, the Cantor shall say,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

Cantor. Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Then shall be said the Psalm.

PSALM 37: 1-11

FRET not thyself because of the ungodly : neither be thou envious against the evil-doers.

2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass : and be withered even as the green herb.

3 Put thou thy trust in the Lord, and be doing good : dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

4 Delight thou in the Lord : and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.

5 Commit thy way unto the Lord, and put thy trust in him : and he shall bring it to pass.

6 He shall make thy righteousness as clear as the light : and thy just dealing as the noon-day.

7 Hold thee still in the Lord, and abide patiently upon him : but grieve not thyself at him whose way doth prosper, against the man that doeth after evil counsels.

8 Leave off from wrath, and let go displeasure : fret not thyself, else shalt thou be moved to do evil.

9 Wicked doers shall be rooted out : and they that patiently abide the Lord, those shall inherit the land.

10 Yet a little while, and the ungodly shall be clean gone : thou shalt look after his place, and he shall be away.

11 But the meek-spirited shall possess the earth : and shall be refreshed in the multitude of peace.

Glory be 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.

Then a Lesson of the Old Testament.

Jeremiah 6: 6 - 21

⁶ For thus says the Lord of hosts:

Cut down her trees;

cast up a siege-ramp against Jerusalem.

This is the city that must be punished;

there is nothing but oppression within her.

⁷ As a well keeps its water fresh,

so she keeps fresh her wickedness;

violence and destruction are heard within her;

sickness and wounds are ever before me.

⁸ Take warning, O Jerusalem,
or I shall turn from you in disgust,
and make you a desolation,
an uninhabited land.

⁹ Thus says the Lord of hosts:
Glean thoroughly as a vine
the remnant of Israel;
like a grape-gatherer, pass your hand again
over its branches.

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak and give warning,
that they may hear?
See, their ears are closed,
they cannot listen.
The word of the Lord is to them an object of scorn;
they take no pleasure in it.

¹¹ But I am full of the wrath of the Lord;
I am weary of holding it in.

Pour it out on the children in the street,
and on the gatherings of young men as well;
both husband and wife shall be taken,
the old folk and the very aged.

¹² Their houses shall be turned over to others,
their fields and wives together;
for I will stretch out my hand
against the inhabitants of the land,
says the Lord.

¹³ For from the least to the greatest of them,
everyone is greedy for unjust gain;
and from prophet to priest,
everyone deals falsely.

¹⁴ They have treated the wound of my people carelessly,
saying, 'Peace, peace',
when there is no peace.

¹⁵ They acted shamefully, they committed abomination;
yet they were not ashamed,
they did not know how to blush.

Therefore they shall fall among those who fall;
at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown,
says the Lord.

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord:

Stand at the crossroads, and look,
and ask for the ancient paths,
where the good way lies; and walk in it,
and find rest for your souls.

But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

¹⁷ Also I raised up sentinels for you:

'Give heed to the sound of the trumpet!'

But they said, 'We will not give heed.'

¹⁸ Therefore hear, O nations,

and know, O congregation, what will happen to them.

¹⁹ Hear, O earth; I am going to bring disaster on this people,
the fruit of their schemes,

because they have not given heed to my words;

and as for my teaching, they have rejected it.

²⁰ Of what use to me is frankincense that comes from Sheba,
or sweet cane from a distant land?

Your burnt-offerings are not acceptable,

nor are your sacrifices pleasing to me.

²¹ Therefore thus says the Lord:

See, I am laying before this people

stumbling-blocks against which they shall stumble;

parents and children together,

neighbour and friend shall perish.

And after that Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

MAGNIFICAT (SUNG) *Luke 1*

MY soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.

For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be 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.

Then a Lesson of the New Testament.

Romans 9: 1 - 13

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— ²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

⁶It is not as though the word of God had failed. For not all Israelites truly belong to Israel, ⁷and not all of Abraham's children are his true descendants; but 'It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named after you.' ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as descendants. ⁹For this is what the promise said, 'About this time I will return and Sarah shall have a son.' ¹⁰Nor is that all; something similar happened to Rebecca when she had conceived children by one husband, our ancestor Isaac. ¹¹Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue, ¹²not by works but by his call) she was told, 'The elder shall serve the younger.' ¹³As it is written,
'I have loved Jacob,
but I have hated Esau.'

And after that Nunc dimittis (or the Song of Simeon).

NUNC DIMITTIS (SUNG) Luke 2.29

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be 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.

Then shall be said or sung the Apostles' Creed, by the Minister and the people standing.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead, and buried:
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
The holy Catholick Church;**

**The Communion of Saints;
The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body,
And the Life everlasting.
Amen.**

And after that these Prayers following, all devoutly kneeling: the Minister first pronouncing with a loud voice,

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Minister and people shall say the Lord's Prayer with a loud voice.

OUR Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Then the Cantor standing up shall sing,

Cantor. O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

Answer. **And grant us thy salvation.**

Cantor. O Lord, save the Queen.

Answer. **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Cantor. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

Cantor. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. **And bless thine inheritance.**

Cantor. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. **Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**

Cantor. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

The First Collect at Evening Prayer

O GOD, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Second Collect at Evening Prayer

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The Third Collect, for Aid against all Perils

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Intercessions, concluding with

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13.*

Homily

Blessing

Here endeth the Order of Evensong.