

Morning Prayer Readings and Psalms w/c 19th April

You may wish to use some of these for worship during Easter Season

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made,
and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Easter Anthem

¹Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: ♦ so let us celebrate the feast,

²not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: ♦
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

³Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ♦ death has no more dominion over him.

⁴In dying he died to sin once for all: ♦ in living he lives to God.

⁵See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ♦ and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

⁶Christ has been raised from the dead: ♦ the first fruits of those who sleep.

⁷For as by man came death: ♦ by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

⁸for as in Adam all die: ♦ even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

*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.*

Responsory

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised.

Where, O death, is your sting?

We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed.

Death is swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your sting?

The Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Monday, 19 April: Alphege

Psalm 96 Refrain: *O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*

¹Sing to the Lord a new song; ♦ sing to the Lord, all the earth.

²Sing to the Lord and bless his name; ♦ tell out his salvation from day to day.

³Declare his glory among the nations ♦ and his wonders among all peoples. *R*

⁴For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ♦ he is more to be feared than all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the nations are but idols; ♦ it is the Lord who made the heavens.

⁶Honour and majesty are before him; ♦ power and splendour are in his sanctuary. *R*

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ♦ ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.

⁸Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; ♦ bring offerings and come into his courts.

⁹O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; ♦ let the whole earth tremble before him.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. ♦

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. *R*

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; ♦ let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

¹²Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; ♦ let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.

¹³For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; ♦

with righteousness he will judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

Lord God, you draw us by your beauty and transform us by your holiness; let our worship echo all creation's praise and declare your glory to the nations; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 1.1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Collect

Merciful God, who raised up your servant Alphege to be a pastor of your people and gave him grace to suffer for justice and true religion: grant that we who celebrate his martyrdom may know the power of the risen Christ in our hearts and share his peace in lives offered to your service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Tuesday, 20 April

Psalm 98 Refrain: *The Lord has made known his salvation.*

¹Sing to the Lord a new song, ♦ for he has done marvellous things.

²His own right hand and his holy arm ♦ have won for him the victory.

³The Lord has made known his salvation; ♦ his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, ♦
and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. *R*

⁵Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; ♦ break into singing and make music.

⁶Make music to the Lord with the lyre, ♦ with the lyre and the voice of melody.

⁷With trumpets and the sound of the horn ♦ sound praises before the Lord, the King. *R*

⁸Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, ♦ the world and all that dwell upon it.

⁹Let the rivers clap their hands ♦

and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰In righteousness shall he judge the world ♦ and the peoples with equity.

Lord God, just and true, you make your salvation known in the sight of the nations; tune the song of our hearts to the music of creation as you come among us to judge the earth; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1.15-end

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Wednesday, 21 April: Anselm,

Psalm 105 Refrain: Remember the marvels the Lord has done.

¹O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name; ♦ make known his deeds among the peoples.

²Sing to him, sing praises, ♦ and tell of all his marvellous works.

³Rejoice in the praise of his holy name; ♦ let the hearts of them rejoice who seek the Lord.

⁴Seek the Lord and his strength; ♦ seek his face continually.

⁵Remember the marvels he has done, ♦ his wonders and the judgements of his mouth,

⁶O seed of Abraham his servant, ♦ O children of Jacob his chosen. *R*

⁷He is the Lord our God; ♦ his judgements are in all the earth.

⁸He has always been mindful of his covenant, ♦ the promise that he made for a thousand generations:

⁹The covenant he made with Abraham, ♦ the oath that he swore to Isaac,

¹⁰Which he established as a statute for Jacob, ♦ an everlasting covenant for Israel,

¹¹Saying, 'To you will I give the land of Canaan ♦ to be the portion of your inheritance.' *R*

¹²When they were but few in number, ♦ of little account, and sojourners in the land,

¹³Wandering from nation to nation, ♦ from one kingdom to another people,

¹⁴He suffered no one to do them wrong ♦ and rebuked even kings for their sake,

¹⁵Saying, 'Touch not my anointed ♦ and do my prophets no harm.' *R*

¹⁶Then he called down famine over the land ♦ and broke every staff of bread.

¹⁷But he had sent a man before them, ♦ Joseph, who was sold as a slave.

¹⁸They shackled his feet with fetters; ♦ his neck was ringed with iron.

¹⁹Until all he foretold came to pass, ♦ the word of the Lord tested him.

²⁰The king sent and released him; ♦ the ruler of peoples set him free.

²¹He appointed him lord of his household ♦ and ruler of all he possessed,

²²To instruct his princes as he willed ♦ and to teach his counsellors wisdom. *R*

²³Then Israel came into Egypt; ♦ Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.

²⁴And the Lord made his people exceedingly fruitful; ♦ he made them too many for their adversaries,

²⁵Whose heart he turned, so that they hated his people ♦ and dealt craftily with his servants. *R*

²⁶Then sent he Moses his servant ♦ and Aaron whom he had chosen.

²⁷He showed his signs through their word ♦ and his wonders in the land of Ham.

²⁸He sent darkness and it grew dark; ♦ yet they did not heed his words.

²⁹He turned their waters into blood ♦ and slew all their fish.

³⁰Their land swarmed with frogs, ♦ even in their kings' chambers.

³¹He spoke the word, and there came clouds of flies, ♦ swarms of gnats within all their borders.

³²He gave them hailstones for rain ♦ and flames of lightning in their land.

³³He blasted their vines and their fig trees ♦ and shattered trees across their country.

³⁴He spoke the word, and the grasshoppers came ♦ and young locusts without number;

³⁵They ate every plant in their land ♦ and devoured the fruit of their soil.

³⁶He smote all the firstborn in their land, ♦ the first fruits of all their strength. *R*

³⁷Then he brought them out with silver and gold; ♦ there was not one among their tribes that stumbled.

³⁸Egypt was glad at their departing, ♦ for a dread of them had fallen upon them.

³⁹He spread out a cloud for a covering ♦ and a fire to light up the night.

⁴⁰They asked and he brought them quails; ♦ he satisfied them with the bread of heaven. *R*

⁴¹He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out ♦ and ran in the dry places like a river.

⁴²For he remembered his holy word ♦ and Abraham, his servant.

⁴³So he brought forth his people with joy, ♦ his chosen ones with singing.

⁴⁴He gave them the lands of the nations ♦ and they took possession of the fruit of their toil,

⁴⁵That they might keep his statutes ♦ and faithfully observe his laws. Alleluia.

God of our earthly pilgrimage, feed your Easter people with the bread of heaven, that we may hunger and thirst for righteousness until we reach our promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2.1-10

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Collect

Eternal God, who gave great gifts to your servant Anselm as a pastor and teacher: grant that we, like him, may desire you with our whole heart and, so desiring, may seek you and, seeking, may find you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Thursday, 22 April

Psalm 136

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever.*
2 Give thanks to the God of gods, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever.*
3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
4 Who alone does great wonders, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
6 Who laid out the earth upon the waters, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
7 Who made the great lights, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
8 The sun to rule the day, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
10 Who smote the firstborn of Egypt, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
11 And brought out Israel from among them, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
12 With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
13 Who divided the Red Sea in two, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
15 But Pharaoh and his host he overthrew in the Red Sea, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
16 Who led his people through the wilderness, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
17 Who smote great kings, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
18 And slew mighty kings, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
20 And Og, the king of Bashan, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
21 And gave away their land for a heritage, ♦
for his mercy endures for ever;
22 A heritage for Israel his servant, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
23 Who remembered us when we were in trouble, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
24 And delivered us from our enemies, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever;*
25 Who gives food to all creatures, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever.*
26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, ♦ *for his mercy endures for ever.*

Remember us, O God, and shape our history, form our inward eyes to see the shadow of the life-giving cross in the turbulence of our time; for his sake who died for all, Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 2.11-end

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Friday, 23 April : George,

Psalm 5 Refrain: *You, O Lord, will bless the righteous.*

¹Give ear to my words, O Lord; ♦ consider my lamentation.

²Hearken to the voice of my crying, my King and my God, ♦ for to you I make my prayer.

³In the morning, Lord, you will hear my voice; ♦ early in the morning I make my appeal to you, and look up.

⁴For you are the God who takes no pleasure in wickedness; ♦ no evil can dwell with you. *R*

⁵The boastful cannot stand in your sight; ♦ you hate all those that work wickedness.

⁶You destroy those who speak lies; ♦ the bloodthirsty and deceitful the Lord will abhor.

⁷But as for me, through the greatness of your mercy, I will come into your house; ♦

I will bow down towards your holy temple in awe of you. *R*

⁸Lead me, Lord, in your righteousness, because of my enemies; ♦ make your way straight before my face.

⁹For there is no truth in their mouth, in their heart is destruction, ♦

their throat is an open sepulchre, and they flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰Punish them, O God; ♦ let them fall through their own devices.

¹¹Because of their many transgressions cast them out, ♦ for they have rebelled against you. *R*

¹²But let all who take refuge in you be glad; ♦ let them sing out their joy for ever.

¹³You will shelter them, ♦ so that those who love your name may exult in you.

¹⁴For you, O Lord, will bless the righteous; ♦ and with your favour you will defend them as with a shield.

Lord, protect us from the deceit of flattering tongues and lying lips; give us words of life which speak your truth and bless your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ephesians 6.10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Collect

God of hosts,
who so kindled the flame of love
in the heart of your servant George
that he bore witness to the risen Lord
by his life and by his death:
give us the same faith and power of love
that we who rejoice in his triumphs
may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.