

# **The Community of St Stephen Walbrook**



## **Morning Prayer**

### ***The Book of Common Prayer***

**9am Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

***Nicholas, bishop, c.326***

***Free dial-in on 0330 9981 320 - access code: 464351#.***

## ***Introduction***

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 men such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us sit in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

**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.**

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's Name be praised.**

## ***The Venite – Psalm 95***

**O come, let us sing unto the Lord :  
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving :  
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.  
For the Lord is a great God :  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are all the corners of the earth :  
and the strength of the hills is his also.  
The sea is his, and he made it :  
and his hands prepared the dry land.  
O come, let us worship and fall down :  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is the Lord our God :  
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.**

**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.**

## Psalm 30

1 I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up \*  
and not made my foes to triumph over me.

**2 O Lord my God, I cried unto thee \*  
and thou hast healed me.**

3 Thou, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell \*  
thou hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.

**4 Sing praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his \*  
and give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness.**

5 For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his pleasure is life \*  
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

**6 And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be removed \*  
thou, Lord, of thy goodness hast made my hill so strong.**

7 Thou didst turn thy face from me \*  
and I was troubled.

**8 Then cried I unto thee, O Lord \*  
and gat me to my Lord right humbly.**

9 What profit is there in my blood \*  
when I go down to the pit?

**10 Shall the dust give thanks unto thee \*  
or shall it declare thy truth?**

11 Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me \*  
Lord, be thou my helper.

**12 Thou hast turned my heaviness into joy \*  
thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.**

13 Therefore shall every good man sing of thy praise without ceasing \*  
O my God, I will give thanks unto thee 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.**

### ***First reading: Isaiah 28:1-13***

Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty is a fading flower,  
which are on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine!

Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, which as a tempest of hail and a destroying storm, as a  
flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand.

The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet:

And the glorious beauty, which is on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, and as the  
hasty fruit before the summer; which when he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he  
eateth it up.

In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue  
of his people,

And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

But the word of the Lord was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

### ***Second reading: Matthew 12:38-end***

Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee.

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas:

For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.

The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

### ***Benedictus***

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel : for he hath visited and redeemed his people;**

**And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us : in the house of his servant David;**

**As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets : which have been since the world began;**

**That we should be saved from our enemies : and from the hand of all that hate us.**

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers : and to remember his holy Covenant;  
To perform the oath which he swore to our forefather Abraham : that he would give us;  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies : might serve him without fear;  
In holiness and righteousness before him : all the days of our life.  
And thou, Child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest : for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people : for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God : whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death : and to guide our feet into the way 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.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**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.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the King.

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

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

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

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

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

### ***The Collect of the Day***

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever.

### ***The Second Collect, for Peace***

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***The Third Collect, for Grace***

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day: Defend us in the same with thy mighty power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy governance, to do always that is righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Prayers***

***The Grace (2 Corinthians 13)***

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.