

Morning prayer Wednesday



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I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Psalm 139: 13

Please stand.

Officiant O Lord, open our lips

All **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

All **as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 139

Please sit. The whole congregation joins in with the text in bold and says the whole section without a pause, taking our cue from the officiant.

Refrain: I have longed
for your salvation, O Lord.

1 O Lord, you search me and you know me.
You yourself know my resting and my rising;
you discern my thoughts from afar.
You mark when I walk or lie down;
you know all my ways through and through.

**4 Before ever a word is on my tongue,
you know it, O LORD, through and through.
Behind and before, you besiege me,
your hand ever laid upon me.**

6 Too wonderful for me, this knowledge;
too high, beyond my reach.
O where can I go from your spirit,
or where can I flee from your face?

**8 If I climb the heavens, you are there.
If I lie in the grave, you are there.
If I take the wings of the dawn
or dwell at the sea's furthest end,**

- 10 even there your hand would lead me;
your right hand would hold me fast.
If I say, "Let the darkness hide me
and the light around me be night,"
- 12 **even darkness is not dark to you,
the night shall be as bright as day,
and darkness the same as the light.
For it was you who formed my inmost being,**
- 13b knit me together in my mother's womb.
I thank you who wonderfully made me;
how wonderful are your works,
which my soul knows well!
- 15 **My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being fashioned in secret
and moulded in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw me yet unformed;**
- 16b and all days are recorded in your book,
formed before one of them came into being.
To me how precious your thoughts, O God;
how great is the sum of them!
- 18 **If I count them, they are more than the sand;
at the end I am still at your side.
O God, that you would slay the wicked,
that men of blood would depart from me!**
- 20 With deceit they rebel against you,
and set your designs at naught.
Do I not hate those who hate you,
abhor those who rise against you?
I hate them with a perfect hate,
and they are foes to me.
- 23 **O search me, God, and know my heart.
O test me, and know my thoughts.
See that my path is not wicked,
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

**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.**

Please stand.

Canticle

Refrain: Spirit of God, teach us your ways,
that we may walk in the paths of peace.

1 Come, let us go up to the mountain of God,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

2 **That God may teach us his ways,
and that we may walk in his paths.**

3 For the law shall go out from Zion,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4 **God shall judge between the nations,
and shall mediate for many peoples.**

5 They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.

6 **Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

7 O people of Jacob, come:
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Isaiah 2.3–5

**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.**

Refrain: Spirit of God, teach us your ways,
that we may walk in the paths of peace.

Please sit.

First Reading

2 Corinthians 4: 1–15

Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practise cunning or to falsify God’s word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. For it is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness’, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus’ sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—‘I believed, and so I spoke’—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Reader Here ends the reading.

The reading is followed by a time of silence, after which please stand.

Gospel Canticle
The Benedictus

**Bless the Lord, the God of Israel,
who has come to set us free.
He has raised for us a Saviour
sprung from royal David's tree.
Through his prophets God had spoken
of the hope the Christ would bring;
of his faithfulness and mercy
let each generation sing.**

**Long ago God made a promise
he would set his people free,
that in all our life and worship
we might know true liberty,
to be holy, to be righteous
in his sight throughout our days;
now this child will be a herald
making ready all God's ways.**

**Let all people know salvation
through forgiveness of their sin,
as our God in his compassion
bids a shining dawn begin.
So may all who dwell in darkness
see the shadows disappear
while he guides our feet in pathways
where his peace is ever near.**

**To the Father be all glory
with the Spirit and the Son,
as it was, is now and shall be
while eternal ages run.**

Words: Anne Harrison

Music: St Helen, GC Martin (1844–1916)

Please sit or kneel to pray.

Leader Heavenly Father, in every age
you raise up pastors and leaders for your Church
to reflect the light of Christ
and to lead us in the way of holiness.
We thank you for those
who have been shepherds of your flock:
bless your Church today with gifts of care and nurture,
give a pastoral heart to bishops, priests and deacons,
and strengthen all who are called to lead your people.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader We thank you for the gifts of grace in the life of Thomas Ken:
give wisdom and insight
to all in authority in Church and state,
that they may use their power for good
and the benefit of those over whom they are set.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader We thank you for those pastors and spiritual directors
whose influence is hidden from the world:
bless them in their quiet guidance
of those who seek after your holiness and truth.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader We thank you for those who give pastoral care
to the sick and the suffering:
help those who are distressed through following bad advice.
Have mercy on those whose lives lack purpose or direction
and bring them the care they need
for wholeness and healing.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader We thank you for all who have worked
to lead others into the way of truth and are now at rest:
grant us in this life the spiritual guidance and pastoral care
that will lead us to eternal life.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Leader Father, make us worthy of everlasting joy
in the fellowship of Thomas Ken and all your saints
in the glory of your kingdom,
where you live and reign, God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Silence may be kept.

Leader O God, from whom all blessings flow,
by whose providence we are kept
and by whose grace we are directed:
help us, through the example of your servant Thomas Ken,
faithfully to keep your word, humbly to accept adversity,
and steadfastly to worship 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.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Leader As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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 ever.
Amen.**

Please stand.

Hymn

**Awake, my soul, and with the sun
thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and early rise
to pay thy morning sacrifice.**

**Lord, I my vows to Thee renew.
Disperse my sins as morning dew;
guard my first springs of thought and will;
and with Thyself my spirit fill.**

**Direct, control, suggest, this day,
all I design or do or say,
that all my pow'rs, with all their might,
in Thy sole glory may unite.**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him all creatures here below;
praise Him above, ye heav'only host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Words: Thomas Ken (1637–1711)

Music: Morning Hymn, F.-H. Barthélémon (1741–1808)

The Conclusion

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

All **Amen.**

Leader Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



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