



1

Grace, mercy and peace

**from God the Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1 Timothy 1.2

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**as in the beginning, so now, and forever. Amen.**

2 *The Opening Canticle, the Priase of God's Servants*

Come now, praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord:

you that stand by night in the house of the Lord.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and praise the Lord:

May the Lord bless you from Zion,

the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 134

3 *The Opening Prayer*

The day is now past and the night is at hand.

Let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence may be kept.*

Father of lights, receive the prayer and praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us a light for all the world, delivered by your goodness from all the works of darkness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Psalms as appointed.*

SONG OF SOLOMON 2.8–13

8 *The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes*

leaping upon the mountains; bounding over the hills.

9 *My beloved is like a gazelle, or a young stag.*

Look, there he stands; behind a wall,

*Gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.*

10 My beloved speaks and says to me:

*Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;*

11 for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

12 *The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,*  
and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

13 *The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom,*  
*they give forth fragrance.*

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

5 *A pause is observed*

Lord of life, by the power of your resurrection, deliver us from all selfishness and bring us to the fullness of your joy; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

6 *One or two Readings from the Bible as appointed.*

MATTHEW 11.16–19, 25–30

Jesus said to the crowd, “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

*The readings may be followed by a period of silence for reflection, a hymn, or*

May your word live in us

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

7 *The Canticle, The Song of Mary (Magnificat)*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:

from this day all generations will call me blessed;

The Almighty has done great things for me:

and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him:

from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:

and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:

and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things:

and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:

to remember the promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our forebears:

to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.47–55

8 *The Apostles' Creed may be said.*

9 *The Prayers*

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy**

Lord have mercy.

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

Amighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

11 *Intercessions and Thanksgivings may be made according to local custom and need.*

12 *The Evening Collect*

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night: that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may rest on your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip us with everything good that we may do his will, to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

*see Hebrews 13.20, 21*