



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.*

PSALM 80.7-14

7 *Restoure us, O God of hosts;*

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be healed.

8 *You have brought a vine out of Egypt;*

you cast out the nations and planted it.

9 *You prepared the ground for it;*

it took root and filled the land.

10 *The mountains were covered by its shadow;*

and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.

11 *You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea;*

and its branches to the River.

12 *Why have you broken down its wall,*

so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

13 *The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,*

and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.

14 *Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;*

*behold and tend this vine;*

preserve what your right hand has planted.

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.**

MATTHEW 21.33–46

Jesus said, “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

*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.

10 *The Lord's Prayer and the Collect of the Day*

**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.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, 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*