

## THE EASTER ANTHEMS

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

*All* **not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: •  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

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

*All* **In dying he died to sin once for all: •  
in living he lives to God.**

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

*All* **Christ has been raised from the dead: •  
the first fruits of those who sleep.**

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

*All* **for as in Adam all die: •  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Glory to . . .**

*Verses from 1 Corinthians 5 and 15, and Romans 6*

## A SONG OF THE RESURRECTION

When we were buried with you in baptism, Christ God, •  
we were made worthy of eternal life by your resurrection!

*All* **Now we praise you and sing: Hosanna in the highest! •  
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!**

This is our God. There is none other like him. •  
He established every righteous way,  
bestowing it upon his beloved Israel.

*All* **After this, he appeared on earth and walked with us. •  
Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord!**

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death. •  
And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!**

*Text taken from the Orthodox tradition*

# PRAYING TOGETHER IN LENT

## THE CENTRE PAGES

**Opening Prayers  
and Canticles (Bible Songs)**

**for use with**

**PRAYING TOGETHER IN LENT**

**a collection of prayer materials and  
resources compiled by the**

**Bishop's Worship, Prayer & Spirituality Group**

**for the Diocese of Gloucester**

**Lent 2008**

## OPENING PRAYER for use in LENT

*In the morning*

O Lord, open our lips

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

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

*All* **according to your judgement give us life**

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,

your light breaks forth like the dawn

and your healing springs up for deliverance.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,

sustain us with your bountiful Spirit

and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*In the afternoon or evening*

O God, make speed to save us.

*All* **O Lord, make haste to help us**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

*All* **according to your judgement give us life**

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

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,

that freed from the misery of sin and shame

we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

## A SONG OF CHRIST THE SERVANT

*All* **Christ committed no sin,  
No guile was found on his lips.**

Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, •  
that you should follow in his steps.

*All* **He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips, •  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.**

When he suffered, he did not threaten, •  
but he trusted himself to God who judges justly.

*All* **Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, •  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

By his wounds, you have been healed,  
for you were straying like sheep, •  
but have now returned  
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*All* **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.**

*All* **Christ committed no sin,  
No guile was found on his lips.**

*1 Peter 2.21b–25*

## A SONG OF THE WORD OF THE LORD

*All* **Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

Seek the Lord while he may be found, •  
call upon him while he is near;

*All* **Let the wicked abandon their ways, •  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;**

Return to the Lord, who will have mercy; •  
to our God, who will richly pardon.

*All* **For my thoughts are not your thoughts, •  
neither are your ways my ways,' says the Lord.**

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, •  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*All* **As the rain and the snow come down from above, •  
and return not again but water the earth,**

Bringing forth life and giving growth, •  
seed for sowing and bread to eat,

*All* **So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; •  
it will not return to me fruitless,**

But it will accomplish that which I purpose, •  
and succeed in the task I gave it.'

*All* **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.**

*All* **Return to the Lord, who will have mercy,  
to our God, who will richly pardon.**

*Isaiah 55.6-11*

## OPENING PRAYER for use in PASSIONTIDE

*In the morning*

O Lord, open our lips

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

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

*All* **according to your judgement give us life**

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

As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief  
your only Son was lifted up

that he might draw the whole world to himself.

May we walk this day in the way of the cross  
and always be ready to share its weight,  
declaring your love for all the world.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*In the afternoon or evening*

O God, make speed to save us.

*All* **O Lord, make haste to help us**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

*All* **according to your judgement give us life**

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

As we behold your Son, enthroned on the cross,  
stir up in us the fire of your love,

that we may be cleansed from all our sins,  
and walk with you in newness of life

singing the praise of him who died  
for us and our salvation.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

## OPENING PRAYER for use in the EASTER season

*In the morning*

O Lord, open our lips

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

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

*All* **according to your judgement give us life**

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.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*In the afternoon or evening*

O God, make speed to save us.

*All* **O Lord, make haste to help us**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

*All* **according to your judgement give us life**

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the deep waters of death  
you brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
Through him dark death has been destroyed  
and radiant life is everywhere restored.

As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light  
may our lives reflect his glory  
and our lips repeat the endless song.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

## A SONG OF THE WILDERNESS

*All* **Lift up your voice with strength,  
O herald of good tidings.**

The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice •  
the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

*All* **They shall see the glory of the Lord, •  
the majesty of our God.**

Strengthen the weary hands, •  
and make firm the feeble knees.

*All* **Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not,  
your God is coming with judgement, •  
coming with judgement to save you.'**

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, •  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

*All* **Then shall the lame leap like a hart, •  
and the tongue of the dumb leap for joy.**

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, •  
and streams in the desert;

*All* **The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, •  
with everlasting joy upon their heads.**

Joy and gladness shall be theirs, •  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*All* **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.**

*All* **Lift up your voice with strength,  
O herald of good tidings.**

## THE SONG OF CHRIST'S GLORY

*All* **At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.**

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, •  
but he did not cling to equality with God.

*All* **He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, •  
and was born in our human likeness.**

Being found in human form he humbled himself, •  
and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

*All* **Therefore God has highly exalted him, •  
and bestowed on him the name above every name,**

That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, •  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;

*All* **And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, •  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*All* **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.**

*All* **At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow.**

*Philippians 2.5–11*

## THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

*All\** **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, •  
who has come to his people and set them free.

*All* **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, •  
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old •  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us.

*All* **To show mercy to our ancestors, •  
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: •  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies.

*All* **Free to worship him without fear, •  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called  
the prophet of the Most High, •  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

*All* **To give his people knowledge of salvation •  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God •  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

*All* **To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death, •  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*All* **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.**

*All\** **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.**

*Benedictus, Luke 1.68–79*

*\*This refrain is intended for use in Lent.. Common Worship: Daily Prayer gives a  
refrain for Passiontide on page 254, and a refrain for the Easter Season on page 266.*

## THE SONG OF MARY

**All\* Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for our God will richly pardon.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

**All From this day all generations will call me blessed; •  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him, •  
from generation to generation.

**All He has shown strength with his arm •  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**

Casting down the mighty from their thrones •  
and lifting up the lowly.

**All He 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 his promise of mercy,

**All The promise made to our ancestors, •  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**All 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.**

**All\* Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for our God will richly pardon.**

*Magnificat, Luke 1.46–55*

*\*This refrain is intended for use in Lent. Common Worship: Daily Prayer gives a refrain for Passiontide ('God's love for us is revealed . . .') on page 260, and a refrain for the Easter Season ('The stone which the builders rejected . . .') on page 272.*

## THE SONG OF SIMEON

**All\* Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: •  
your word has been fulfilled.

**All My own eyes have seen the salvation •  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

A light to reveal you to the nations •  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**All 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.**

**All\* Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

*Nunc dimittis, Luke 2.29–32*

*\*This refrain is intended for use in Lent. Common Worship: Daily Prayer gives a refrain for Passiontide ('Christ himself bore our sins . . .') on page 352, and a refrain for the Easter Season ('Alleluia. The Lord is risen . . .') on page 353.*