

## Evening Prayer from The Book of Common Prayer

The Fifteenth Sunday After Trinity

### ¶ Introduction

Dearly beloved,  
the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

*All* **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.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his ministers

to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins: he pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **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.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

O Lord, open thou our lips

*All* **and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

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

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*All* **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

*All* **The Lord's name be praised.**

*Psalm 119.113-136\**

I hate them that imagine evil things \*  
but thy law do I love.

Thou art my defence and shield \*  
and my trust is in thy word.

Away from me, ye wicked \*

I will keep the commandments of my God.

O stablish me according to thy word,  
that I may live \*  
and let me not be disappointed of my hope.

Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe \*  
yea, my delight shall be ever in thy statutes.

Thou hast trodden down all them that depart from thy statutes \*  
thy statutes\*for they imagine but deceit.

Thou puttest away all the ungodly of the earth  
like dross \*  
therefore I love thy testimonies.

My flesh trembleth for fear of thee \*  
and I am afraid of thy judgements.

I deal with the thing that is lawful and right \*  
O give me not over unto mine oppressors.

Make thou thy servant to delight in that which is good \*  
that the proud do me no wrong.

Mine eyes are wasted away with looking for thy health \*  
and for the word of thy righteousness.

O deal with thy servant according  
unto thy loving mercy \*  
and teach me thy statutes.

I am thy servant, O grant me understanding \*  
that I may know thy testimonies.

It is time for thee, Lord, to lay to thine hand \*  
for they have destroyed thy law.

For I love thy commandments \*  
above gold and precious stone.

Therefore hold I straight all thy commandments \*  
and all false ways I utterly abhor.

Thy testimonies are wonderful \*  
therefore doth my soul keep them.

When thy word goeth forth \*  
it giveth light and understanding unto the simple.

I opened my mouth, and drew in my breath \*  
for my delight was in thy commandments.

O look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me \*  
as thou usest to do unto those that love thy Name.  
Order my steps in thy word \*  
and so shall no wickedness have dominion  
over me.

O deliver me from the wrongful dealings of men \*  
and so shall I keep thy commandments.

Shew the light of thy countenance  
upon thy servant \*  
and teach me thy statutes.

Mine eyes gush out with water \*  
because men keep not thy law.

\*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

*Old Testament Reading First Reading: Ezekiel  
33.23,30 - 34.10*

Then the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,  
Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people  
still are talking against thee by the walls and in the  
doors of the houses, and speak one to another,  
every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray  
you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth  
from the Lord.

And they come unto thee as the people cometh,  
and they sit before thee as my people, and they  
hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with  
their mouth they shew much love, but their heart  
goeth after their covetousness.

And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song  
of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play  
well on an instrument: for they hear thy words,  
but they do them not.

And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,)  
then shall they know that a prophet hath been  
among them.

And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,  
Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of  
Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the  
Lord God unto the shepherds; Woe be to the  
shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves!  
should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye  
kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither  
have ye healed that which was sick, neither have  
ye bound up that which was broken, neither have  
ye brought again that which was driven away,  
neither have ye sought that which was lost; but  
with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

And they were scattered, because there is no  
shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts  
of the field, when they were scattered.

My sheep wandered through all the mountains,  
and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was  
scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none  
did search or seek after them.

Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of  
the Lord;

As I live, saith the Lord God, surely because my  
flock became a prey, and my flock became meat  
to every beast of the field, because there was no  
shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my  
flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed

not my flock;  
Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the Lord;  
Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

### *Magnificat*

- 1 My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
- 3 For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.
- 4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his Name.
- 5 And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.
- 6 He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
- 8 He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
- 9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed 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.

### *New Testament Reading*

*Acts 26.1,9-25*

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to speak for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities.

Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests,  
At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,  
To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:

That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

### *Nunc dimittis*

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.
- 2 For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation;
- 3 Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;

4 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
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 Apostles' Creed*

*All* **I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the  
Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the  
quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### *Prayers*

The Lord be with you.

*All* **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All* **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.

*All* **And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen.

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

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

*All* **And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people.

*All* **And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*All* **Because there is none other that fighteth  
for us,**

**but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

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

### *The Collect of the Day*

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy  
Church with thy perpetual mercy: and,  
because the frailty of man without thee  
cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help  
from all things hurtful, and lead us to all  
things profitable to our salvation; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### *The Collect for Peace*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good  
counsels,

and all just works do proceed;

give unto thy servants that peace which the  
world cannot give;

that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy  
commandments,

and also that, by thee,

we being defended from the fear of our  
enemies

may pass our time in rest and quietness;

through the merits of Jesus Christ our  
Saviour.

*All* **Amen.**

### *The Collect for Aid against all Perils*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O  
Lord;

and by thy great mercy defend us

from all perils and dangers of this night;

for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour,  
Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

### *Homily*

Prayers

### *The Grace*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,  
be with us all evermore.

*All* **Amen.**