Morning Prayer: Thursday 16 January 2025

Week of Proper 1
Thursday after Epiphany

WEEK A

O Lord, open our lips:
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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.

PSALMODY

Antiphon: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;*
I will praise my God while I have my being. (Psalm 104.33)

Opening

Come, let us sing

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before the presence of the Lord with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to God with psalms.
3 For you, O Lord, are a great God, *
and a great sovereign above all gods.
4 In your hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are yours also.
5 The sea is yours, for you made it, *
and your hands have moulded the dry land.
6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7 For you are our God, and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. *
Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!
8 “Harden not your hearts, *
as your forebears did in the wilderness.
9 They put me to the test, *
though they had seen my works.
10 So I swore in my wrath, *
‘They shall not enter into my rest.’”

Glory …
or a suitable hymn.

(from Psalm 104)

1. You spread out the heavens like a curtain;*
   you lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above;
2. You make the clouds your chariot;*
   you ride on the wings of the wind;
3. You make the winds your messengers*
   and flames of fire your servants.
4. You have set the earth upon its foundations,*
   so that it never shall move at any time.

Glory …
or a suitable hymn.

Psalm 42

1. As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
   so longs my soul for you, O God.
2. My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
   when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
3. My tears have been my food day and night, *
   while all day long they say to me, “Where now is your God?”
4. I pour out my soul when I think on these things: how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,*
   with the voice of praise and thanksgiving, among those who keep holy-day.
5. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; *
   for I will yet give thanks to the Holy One who is the help of my countenance and my God.
6. My soul is heavy within me; *
   therefore I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the peak of Mizar among the heights of Hermon.
7. One deep calls to another in the noise of your cataracts; *
   all your rapids and floods have gone over me.
8. The Lord grants loving-kindness in the daytime; *
   in the night season a song of God is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.
9. I will say to the God of my strength, “Why have you forgotten me *
   and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?”

10. While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me to my face; *
all day long they mock me and say to me, “Where now is your God?”
11. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to the Holy One who is the help of my countenance and my God.

Psalm 43

1. Give judgement for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people; *
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.
2. For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you? *
And why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?
3. Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, *
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;
4. that I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness; *
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.
5. Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why are you so disquieted within me? Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to the Holy One, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Conclusion

(from Isaiah 45)

1. Thus says the Lord who created the heavens,*
who formed the earth and made it;
2. who did not create it a chaos,*
but formed it to be inhabited -
3. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth;*
for I am God: there is no other.
4. From my mouth has gone forth in righteousness*
a word that shall not return:
5 "To me every knee shall bow,*
every tongue shall swear".'
6. In the Lord all the offspring of Israel*
shall triumph and glory.

Glory ...

Antiphon: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;*
I will praise my God while I have my being.

READING(S)

Isaiah 41.17-29

When the poor and needy seek water,
and there is none,
and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the Lord will answer them,
I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
I will open rivers on the bare heights,
and fountains in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
and the dry land springs of water.
I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive;
I will set in the desert the cypress,
the plane and the pine together,
so that all may see and know,
all may consider and understand,
that the hand of the Lord has done this,
the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Set forth your case, says the Lord;
bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.
Let them bring them, and tell us
what is to happen.
Tell us the former things, what they are,
so that we may consider them,
and that we may know their outcome;
or declare to us the things to come.
Tell us what is to come hereafter,
that we may know that you are gods;
do good, or do harm,
that we may be afraid and terrified.
You, indeed, are nothing
and your work is nothing at all;
whoever chooses you is an abomination.

I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
  from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name.
He shall trample on rulers as on mortar,
  as the potter treads clay.
Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know,
  and beforehand, so that we might say, 'He is right'?
There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed,
  none who heard your words.
I first have declared it to Zion,
  and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings.
But when I look there is no one;
  among these there is no counsellor
  who, when I ask, gives an answer.
No, they are all a delusion;
  their works are nothing;
  their images are empty wind.

Ephesians 2.11-22

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision'—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Silence

Response (Psalm 92.4)
In all you have done, O Lord, you have made me glad.
In all you have done, O Lord, you have made me glad.
I will sing for joy because of the works of your hands.
You have made me glad.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
In all you have done, O Lord, you have made me glad.

SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Song of Zechariah Antiphon: Christ is the chosen of God: *
who brings healing to the nations.

1 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, *
who has come to his people and set them free.
2 The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,*
born of the house of his servant David.
3 Through the holy prophets, God promised of old*
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,
4 to show mercy to our forebears, *
and to remember his holy covenant.
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:*
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
6 free to worship him without fear,*
holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.
7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,*
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
8 to give his people knowledge of salvation*
by the forgiveness of their sins.
9 In the tender compassion of our God*
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
10 to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,*
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory ...

Song of Zechariah Antiphon: Christ is the chosen of God: *
who brings healing to the nations.

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.
Do not bring us to the time of trial,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen

Collect of the Day
O Lord, in your loving kindness,
hear the prayers of your people as they call upon you:
that they may discern your will,
and also be given strength to fulfil it;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. **Amen.**

God most holy, we give you thanks for bringing us out of the shadow of night into the light of morning; and we ask you for the joy of spending this day in your service, so that when evening comes, we may once more give you thanks, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God!

The Lord bless us and preserve us from all evil;
and bring us to life eternal. Amen.