

# Morning Prayer for Thursday After Proper 4

Format adapted from Forward Movement

## Opening Sentence

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him. *Habakkuk 2:20*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

V: Lord, open our lips.

R: 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 will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia

## Venite Psalm 95:1-7

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.  
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.  
The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: Come let us adore him.*

## The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

**Psalm 50** *Deus deorum*

1 The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; \*  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

2 Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, \*  
God reveals himself in glory.

3 Our God will come and will not keep silence; \*  
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

4 He calls the heavens and the earth from above \*  
to witness the judgment of his people.

5 Gather before me my loyal followers, \*  
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.

6 Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; \*  
for God himself is judge.

7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; \*  
for I am God, your God.

8 I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; \*  
your offerings are always before me.

9 I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, \*  
nor he-goats out of your pens;

10 For all the beasts of the forest are mine, \*  
the herds in their thousands upon the hills.

11 I know every bird in the sky, \*  
and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, \*  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.

13 Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, \*  
or drink the blood of goats?

14 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and make good your vows to the Most High.

15 Call upon me in the day of trouble; \*  
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me."

16 But to the wicked God says: \*  
"Why do you recite my statutes, and take my covenant upon your lips;

17 Since you refuse discipline, \*  
and toss my words behind your back?

18 When you see a thief, you make him your friend, \*  
and you cast in your lot with adulterers.

19 You have loosed your lips for evil, \*  
and harnessed your tongue to a lie.

20 You are always speaking evil of your brother \*  
and slandering your own mother's son.

21 These things you have done, and I kept still, \*  
and you thought that I am like you."

22 I have made my accusation; \*  
I have put my case in order before your eyes.

23 Consider this well, you who forget God, \*  
lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

<sup>24</sup> Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; \*  
but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Lessons

A reading from Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:3

Moreover I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, wickedness was there, and in the place of righteousness, wickedness was there as well. I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for he has appointed a time for every matter, and for every work. I said in my heart with regard to human beings that God is testing them to show that they are but animals. For the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and humans have no advantage over the animals; for all is vanity. All go to one place; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows whether the human spirit goes upward and the spirit of animals goes downward to the earth? So I saw that there is nothing better than that all should enjoy their work, for that is their lot; who can bring them to see what will be after them? Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. Look, the tears of the oppressed-- with no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power-- with no one to comfort them. And I thought the dead, who have already died, more fortunate than the living, who are still alive; but better than both is the one who has not yet been, and has not seen the evil deeds that are done under the sun.

Here ends the Reading.

**You are God** *Te Deum laudamus*

You are God: we praise you;  
You are the Lord; we acclaim you;  
You are the eternal Father:  
All creation worships you.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaim you;  
Father, of majesty unbounded,  
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,  
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,  
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free  
you did not shun the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death  
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
Come then, Lord, and help your people,  
bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints  
to glory everlasting.

A reading from Galatians 3:1-14

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly exhibited as crucified! The only thing I want to learn from you is this: Did you receive the Spirit by doing the works of the law or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? Having started with the Spirit, are you now ending with the flesh? Did you experience so much for nothing?-- if it really was for nothing. Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? Just as Abraham "believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," so, you see, those who believe are the descendants of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you." For this reason, those who believe are blessed with Abraham who believed. For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the things written in the book of the law." Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law; for "The one who is righteous will live by faith." But the law does not rest on faith; on the contrary, "Whoever does the works of the law will live by them." Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us-- for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"-- in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Here ends the Reading.

**The Song of Zechariah** *Benedictus Dominus Deus*  
*Luke 1: 68-79*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

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

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Prayers**

V: The Lord be with you.  
R: *And also with you.*  
Let us pray.

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 for ever. Amen.

## **Suffrages B**

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;  
R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.  
V. Day by day we bless you;  
R. We praise your name for ever.  
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;  
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.  
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.  
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;  
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

*Collect of the Day*

O God, your never-failing providence sets in order all things both in heaven and earth: Put away from us, we entreat you, all hurtful things, and give us those things which are profitable for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*A Collect for Guidance*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for Mission*

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving (offered privately or in the comments)*

*The General Thanksgiving*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*