

Evening Prayer - Welcome

Welcome to Evening Prayer from St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow which will be shared in cyberspace in a Google+ Hangout.

This is the third service that has been held in this way and we are still experimenting with it. One limitation is the number of people who can join in, which is currently limited to 10 people. It is believed that Google will soon enable people subsequent to the first 10 in the system to watch but not participate. It may be that if more than 10 people want to join in we need to split into two groups.

One of the things which causes some difficulty is the slight time lag between the different people speaking. This makes reciting something together a bit of a challenge and the delays would make singing something together impossible.

The service this evening will be led by 2 people – the leader and responder. These two people will keep their microphones on throughout. Everyone else is asked to click the mute button in their Google Hangout window for the first part of the service. Please unmute your microphone so that we can say the Magnificat and the Lord's Prayer together and so that you can contribute an intercession if you want to do so. Please join in aloud with all the prayers in bold, saying them with the responder even if your microphone is muted.

The number of people attending will be recorded in the service book at St Mary's.

The service will begin at 1700 GMT. The hangout will be open to those who joined in in previous weeks from 1640 GMT. It will open to anyone else from 1650.

If you want to test the system, look out for Kelvin Holdsworth hanging out in Google+ during the afternoon.

Incarnation – Feast of St Stephen

O God, make speed to save us:

O Lord, make haste to help us.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Please mute your microphone unless you are the responder or leader.

Psalmody

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have put our trust in you.

Opening - from Psalm 33

- 1 The eye of the Lord is upon those who fear him;*
on those who wait upon his love.
- 2 **To pluck their lives from death,*
and to feed them in time of famine.**
- 3 Our soul waits for the Lord;*
he is our help and our shield.
- 4 **Indeed, our heart rejoices in him*
for in his holy name we put our trust.**

**Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Psalm 110

- 1 The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand,*
until I make your enemies your footstool.'
- 2 **The Lord will send the sceptre of your power out of Zion,*
saying, 'Rule over your enemies round about you.**
- 3 Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth,*
in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you,
like dew from the womb of the morning.'

4 The Lord has sworn and he will not recant:*
'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'

5 The Lord who is at your right hand
will smite kings in the day of his wrath;*
he will rule over the nations.

6 He will heap high the corpses;*
he will smash heads over the wide earth.

7 He will drink from the brook beside the road;*
therefore he will lift high his head.

**Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Conclusion – from Philippians 2

1 Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus*
The divine nature was his from the first.

2 Yet he did not grasp at equality with God;*
he emptied himself and became like a slave.

3 Taking the nature of man he was revealed in human form;*
he humbled himself and became obedient even to death,
death on a cross.

4 Therefore God has raised him on high,*
and has given him a name above every other name.

5 So that in the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.*
in heaven, on earth, and in the depths.

6 And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord;*
to the glory of God the Father.

**Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

**Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be upon us,
as we have put our trust in you.**

Readings

To be read by members of the community.

Reader 1 – please unmute your microphone before speaking and then mute it again at the end of the reading.

Wisdom 4: 7-15

But the righteous, though they die early, will be at rest.
For old age is not honoured for length of time,
or measured by number of years;
but understanding is grey hair for anyone,
and a blameless life is ripe old age.

There were some who pleased God and were loved by him,
and while living among sinners were taken up.
They were caught up so that evil might not change their understanding
or guile deceive their souls.
For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good,
and roving desire perverts the innocent mind.
Being perfected in a short time, they fulfilled long years;
for their souls were pleasing to the Lord,
therefore he took them quickly from the midst of wickedness.
Yet the peoples saw and did not understand,
or take such a thing to heart,
that God's grace and mercy are with his elect,
and that he watches over his holy ones.

Reader 2 – please unmute your microphone before speaking and then mute it again at the end of the reading.

Acts 7:59 - 8:8

They dragged Stephen out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

And Saul approved of their killing him.

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

Silence

Response – from Psalm 89.27

I will make him my first-born.

I will make him my first-born.

Higher than the kings of the earth.

My first-born.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

I will make him my first-born.

Please unmute your microphone at this point

Antiphon

To us is born this day a Saviour,
Christ the Lord.

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
You, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to God, Source of all Being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

Antiphon

To us is born this day a Saviour,
Christ the Lord.

Prayers

Anyone is free to offer a prayer at this point in the service.

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.**

Gracious God, who gave the first martyr Stephen
grace to pray for those who took up stones against him:
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth
we may learn to love even our enemies
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,
looking to heaven to him who was born for us,
Jesus Christ, the child of the manger, known in our hearts,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord God almighty, come and dispel the darkness from our hearts, that
in the radiance of your brightness we may know you, the only
unfading light, glorious in all eternity. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing:
through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.