



Exeter  
Cathedral

# Morning Prayer

Ascension Day 2018  
8am



[www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk)

## Preparation

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

*All* Your throne has been established from of old;  
**you are from everlasting.**

**Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!  
Glorious to his native skies. Alleluia!  
Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!**

**There for him high triumph waits; Alleluia!  
Lift your heads, eternal gates. Alleluia!  
Christ hath vanquished death and sin; Alleluia!  
Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!**

**Lord, though parted from our sight, Alleluia!  
Far above yon azure height, Alleluia!  
Grant our hearts may thither rise, Alleluia!  
Seeking they beyond the skies. Alleluia!**

**There we shall with the remain, Alleluia!  
Partners of your endless reign, Alleluia!  
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!  
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!**

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and*

*Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823)*

*Tune: Llanfair (Robert Williams of Anglesey 1781-1821)*

*This opening prayer may be said*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Psalmody**

Psalm 110

*Dixit Dominus*

*The appointed psalmody is sung.*

The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

The Lord shall send the rod of thy power out of Sion: be thou ruler, even in the midst among thine enemies.

In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings with an holy worship: the dew of thy birth is of the womb of the morning.

The Lord sware, and will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedech.

The Lord upon thy right hand: shall wound even kings in the day of his wrath.

He shall judge among the heathen; he shall fill the places with the dead bodies: and smite in sunder the heads over divers countries.

He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up his head.

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.

## **Scripture Reading**

Acts 1.1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

## Gospel Canticle

*The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is said*

*Refrain:*

*All I am ascending to my Father and to your Father;  
to my God and your God.*

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, <sup>1</sup>  
who has come to his people and set them free.

<sup>2</sup>He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, <sup>2</sup>  
born of the house of his servant David.

<sup>3</sup>Through his holy prophets God promised of old <sup>3</sup>  
to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all that hate us,

<sup>4</sup>To show mercy to our ancestors, <sup>4</sup>

and to remember his holy covenant.

<sup>5</sup>This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: <sup>5</sup>

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

<sup>6</sup>Free to worship him without fear, <sup>6</sup>

holy and righteous in his sight

all the days of our life.

<sup>7</sup>And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, <sup>7</sup>

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

<sup>8</sup>To give his people knowledge of salvation <sup>8</sup>

by the forgiveness of all their sins.

<sup>9</sup>In the tender compassion of our God <sup>9</sup>

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

<sup>10</sup>To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ☩  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

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.**

*Refrain:*

All *I am ascending to my Father and to your Father;  
to my God and your God.*

## Prayers

Through Christ, who ever lives to make intercession for us,  
let us pray to the Lord.

Lift up our hearts to the heavenly places  
and inspire us to serve you as a royal priesthood:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Let all peoples acknowledge your kingdom  
and grant on earth the blessing of peace:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit  
and renew your Church with power from on high:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

May peace abound and righteousness flourish,  
that we may vanquish injustice and wrong:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Help us to proclaim the good news of salvation,  
and grant us the needful gifts of your grace:  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ prays,  
to the mercy and protection of God.  
Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

*The Collect of the day is said*

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens,  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who 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.**

## **Anthem**

*The choir sings*

Above all praise and all majesty, Lord thou reignest evermore.  
Hallelujah.

*Words and Music:  
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)*

## **The Conclusion**

May Christ, who has opened the kingdom of heaven,  
bring us to reign with him in glory.

*All* **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

