

*Evening Prayer
From the Office of
The Northumbria Community*

Preparing for worship

Through our worship today may we discern how the Kingdom of God grows among us, as individuals and as a community.

Prayer

Song – 378 – Jesus calls us here to meet him

Opening sentences

My soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

Call: Out of the depths I have cried to You.

***Response:* O Lord, hear my voice.**

Call: With my whole heart I want to praise You.

***Response:* O Lord, hear my voice.**

Call: If you, Lord, should mark iniquities:

***Response:* Who could stand? who could stand?**

I will wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word do I hope.

Song – 688 – Take this moment

Expressions of faith

Lord, You have always given bread for the coming day;
and though I am poor, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given strength for the coming day;
and though I am weak, today I believe.

Lord, You have always given peace for the coming day;
and though of anxious heart, today I believe.

Lord, You have always kept me safe in trials;
and now, tried as I am, today I believe.

Lord, You have always marked the road for the coming day;
and though it may be hidden, today I believe.

Lord, You have always lightened this darkness of mine;
and though the night is here, today I believe.

Lord, You have always spoken when time was ripe;
and though you be silent now, today I believe.

Song – 594 – One is the body

Today's Scripture Reading

Matthew 31:31-33. 44-52: ³¹ He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

⁴⁴ 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Silence

Today's Meditation

What is the Kingdom of heaven like.....?

Prayers

Come to our house, Lord Jesus...

Song – 808 – We will lay our burden down

Canticle

In the shadow of Your wings I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

**The Lord is my light, my salvation;
whom shall I fear?**

**The Lord is the refuge of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

In the shadow of Your wings I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

**One thing I ask of the Lord,
one thing I seek;
to dwell in the presence of my God,
to gaze on Your holy place.**

In the shadow of Your wings I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

**I believe I shall see the goodness
of the Lord in the land of the living.
O wait for the Lord!
Have courage and wait,
wait for the Lord.**

In the shadow of Your wings I will sing Your praises, O Lord.

Blessing

See that ye be at peace among yourselves, my children, and love one another. Follow the example of the wise and good and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come.

Song – 258 – God to enfold you

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