

Blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe.

**Your word calls forth the dusk of evening.**

Your wisdom creates both night and day.

**You determine the cycles of time.**

You arrange the succession of seasons  
and establish the stars in their heavenly courses.

**Lord of the starry hosts is your name.**

Living and eternal God, rule over us always.

**Blessed be the Lord, whose word makes evening fall.**

*A candle may be lit and silence is kept.*

## Opening Prayer

God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all people.  
Let us come to him, in sorrow for our sins, seeking healing and salvation.

**Most merciful God,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

**we confess that we have sinned**

**in thought, word and deed.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy forgive what we have been,**

**help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;**

**that we may do justly, love mercy,**

**and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

## Absolution

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour,  
forgive *us our* sins  
and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Psalm 65

- 1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; ♦  
to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.
- 2 To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins; ♦  
when our misdeeds prevail against us, you will purge them away.
- 3 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there. ♦  
We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house,  
even of your holy temple.
- 4 With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation, ♦  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.
- 5 In your strength you set fast the mountains ♦  
and are girded about with might.
- 6 You still the raging of the seas, ♦  
the roaring of their waves and the clamour of the peoples.
- 7 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels; ♦  
the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise.
- 8 You visit the earth and water it; ♦  
you make it very plenteous.
- 9 The river of God is full of water; ♦  
you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.
- 10 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; ♦  
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.
- 11 You crown the year with your goodness, ♦  
and your paths overflow with plenty.
- 12 May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness ♦  
and the hills be girded with joy.
- 13 May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep ♦  
and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

**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**

## The Bible readings for the Second Sunday before Lent

- Genesis 2:4-9,15-25 *God breathes his life into the whole of creation and creates Adam & Eve, to relate to him, to the natural world and to one another.*
- Revelation 4 *John describes his vision of the ceaseless worship of God in heaven.*
- Luke 8:22-25 *Jesus is woken by his disciples and calms the raging storm. He then challenges them as to their lack of faith.*

*A few moments of quiet for thought, thanksgiving & reflection.*

The disciples went and woke him, saying, 'Master, Master, we're going to drown!' He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 'Where is your faith?' he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, 'Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.'

*Luke 8:24-25*

## **Creed**

*Let us affirm our faith in God.*

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*(cf Ephesians 3)*

## **Prayers** *(we can add our own prayers at each section)*

Sovereign Lord, your Son has revealed you as our heavenly Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

You have made your Church a spiritual family, a household of faith.

Through baptism we are reborn as the brothers and sisters of Christ.

Deepen our unity & fellowship in him and knit us together in the bond of your love.

You sent your Son to give his life as a ransom for the whole human family.

We pray for his reconciling love to bring peace to our troubled world and especially we pray for the people of Ukraine in their desperate situation. Bring to our world and its peoples the peace that comes from above.

You sent your Son to teach us the way to live, we give you thanks for all who work in education, continue to encourage & inspire them in the nurture of our children & young people, and we continue to pray for all of our schools ...

We pray for our villages here in Binsey... Speak your word of peace in our midst, and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.

Your Son drew around him a company of friends. Bring comfort to all who are suffering, anxious, vulnerable and alone. *(We lift before God those who we know...)* May they receive your love and healing power in Jesus Christ.

Your Son by dying for us has broken the barrier of death. In confidence we remember those of the household of faith who have gone before us and pray for all who mourn for them... Bring us with them to the joy of your home in heaven.

Father of all, hear us as we pray for one another and for all in Binsey.

Give us clean hands and pure hearts, so that our lives will reflect your holiness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**    *(or traditional form, if you prefer)*

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

God our creator, by your gift  
the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of your Church:  
may we who have been nourished at your table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ came  
that we might have life and have it abundantly;  
pour out your blessing upon our nation;  
where there is illness, bring your healing touch;  
where there is fear, strengthen us with the knowledge of your presence;  
where there is uncertainty, build us up in faith;  
where there is dishonesty, lead us into truth;  
where there is discord, may we know the harmony of your love. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

May God bless us:

may God keep us in the Spirit's care and lead our lives with love.

May Christ's warm welcome shine from our hearts

and Christ's own peace prevail through this and every day,

till greater life shall call. **Amen.**

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