

# ¶ Morning Prayer for the Day of Exasperation

## Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

**All er, are you talking to me?**

Yes, that's why it's written in bold.

**All oh OK, and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

*One or more of the following is said or sung:  
a prayer of thanksgiving (page 109)  
a suitable hymn,  
or A Song of Bed*

- 1 As the deer longs to eat all the flowers in the gardens, ♦  
so longs my soul for you, O Bed.
- 2 My soul is athirst for Sleep, even for the Power Nap; ♦  
when shall I come again before the Land of Nod?
- 3 My tears have been on my bed day and night, ♦  
while all day long they say to me, 'Where is your MA Essay?'
- 4 Now when I think on these things,  
I pour out another coffee: ♦  
How I dozed with the multitude  
at deanery meetings, happily in the Land of Nod,
- 5 With the murmur of snooze and Zzzzzzzz, ♦  
among those who kept micro-sleeping.
- 6 Why are you so full of heaviness, O my eyelids, ♦  
and why am I yawning within me?
- 7 O put your trust in Bed; ♦  
for I will yet get my day-off,  
the source of my sweet dreams, and my lay-in.

*Psalm 151.1-7*

**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.**

*This opening prayer may be said or simply sighed*

The short night has passed, and the long day lies open before us;  
let us stay awake with one eye open and a sleepy head.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
I have just remembered another diary date,  
as usual it clashes, and I'm going to be busy  
now and for ever.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Word of God

*Psalmody*

*The appointed psalmody is said.*

*Each psalm or group of psalms may end with*

**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.**

*If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here,  
or both may be read after the canticle, or simply make it up as  
you go along.*

*A Song of Unity, or another suitable canticle, for example, number 88 (page 645), may be said*

*Refrain:*

**All They shall beat their pews into matchwood,  
and their organs into tuning forks.**

- 1 Come, let us go up to the United Deformed Church, ♦  
to the house of the Angriclans.
- 2 For the law shall go out from the Free  
(if you sign our covenant) Churches, ♦  
and the spirit of the Lord from the Methanolists.
- 3 God shall judge between the denominations, ♦  
and shall mediate for many PCCs.
- 4 They shall beat their pews into matchwood, ♦  
and their organs into tuning forks.
- 5 Congregation shall not rise up against congregation, ♦  
neither shall they hold joint services anymore.

*Isaiah 67.1-5*

**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.**

**All They shall beat their pews into matchwood,  
and their organs into tuning forks.**

*One or more readings appointed for the day are read.*

*The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence or gentle dozing.*

*A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow*

Is it 1662 this morning?

**All No madam, it's 2009**

Sorry, I don't understand; is it 1662?

**All Yes, it is the Book of Common Prayer.**

No, I want the 1662.

**All Yes madam, it is the Book of Common Prayer.**

I don't know the Book of Common Prayer,  
only the 1662 service.

**All That's OK madam, it's the 1928 version of the 1662.**

*from Wisdom of Solomon 20*

**Gospel Canticle**

*The Benefactors (The Song of Zillions of Pounds Lost) is normally said, or a Song of Sod'Em and Gomorrah (page 646) may be said*

*Refrain:*

**All Free-spending without thinking,  
holy and righteous in our own sight  
all the shopping days of our life.**

- 1 Blessed be the Governor of the Bank of England, ♦  
who has come to his people and set for them low interest rates.
- 2 He has raised up for us mighty Quantitative Easing, ♦  
born of the housing crisis.
- 3 Through unholy profits amassed from of old ♦  
to save us from our credit cards,  
from the hands of all that tax us,

- 4 To shower money on our creditors, ♦  
and to remember our financial commitments.
- 5 This was the pact sworn with our hero Keynes: ♦  
to set us free from the prudence of our savings,
- 6 Free-spending without thinking, ♦  
holy and righteous in our own sight  
all the shopping days of our life.
- 7 And you, credit crunch, shall be called the prophet of reason; ♦  
for you will go before the IMF to tighten our belts,
- 8 To give this people knowledge of inflation ♦  
and the repayment of all their debts.
- 9 In the money tendered to our Gordon ♦  
it shall dawn on us from on high,
- 10 That to remain in the black with head above water, ♦  
we must guard against greed and the way of Mammon.

*Proverbs 32.1-10*

**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.**

**All** **Free-spending without thinking,  
holy and righteous in our own sight  
all the shopping days of our life.**

## Prayers

*Intercessions are offered*

*¶ for the day and its dottiness*

*¶ for the world and its wackiness*

*¶ for the Church and her craziness*

*The cycle on pages 362-363 and the prayers on pages 366-368  
may be used.*

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy *(or)* Lord, hear us.

**hear our prayer.**                      **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Silence may be kept.*

*The Collect of the day or the following is sung to a nifty beat*

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
we thank you that you brought us safely  
to the beginning of this day.  
Keep us from putting our foot in it  
or running into you know who,  
and guide us to always  
keep out of their sight;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **Our Father in heaven ...**

*(or)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

## The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

*All* **Are we there yet?**

Yes, let us bless the Lord.

*All* **Right. Let's get outta here!**

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- 1 Let me put this Christmas card over here; ♦  
wait, something has dropped out, oh the corporal.
- 2 Let's hope no one notices which way I open it; ♦  
and which way up does the corporal go?
- 3 Ah yes, upside down; ciborium here, cup over there ♦  
Now the wafers, quickly look out of the corner of my eye to  
count the congregation.
- 4 Nod to sacristan; are the wafers in fives or sevens? ♦  
And why are these wafer containers so fiddly?
- 5 Careful, you're not worthy to drop any crumbs under the  
table, ♦  
oh, and nod to sacristan again.
- 6 Now wine; nod to sacristan. Am I driving afterwards? ♦  
No, OK be liberal...Aaagh, we're not using the chalice; I'll have  
to drink the whole lot.
- 7 Oh wait, here come the Offerings; ♦  
I can't remember which way to sign the cross, but no one will  
notice. Nod to server.
- 8 OK, here comes the Lavvy-Bowl, sorry, lavabo; ♦  
I always have a chuckle to myself about it;
- 9 Sacristan wonders why I am laughing to myself; ♦  
look serious, nod to sacristan.
- 10 Wash hands, and I've gone and wiped my hands on the  
sacristan's sleeve again; ♦  
look more serious, nod to sacristan.
- 11 A few more nods to the sacristan and server until they go  
away. ♦  
Now where is that radio microphone switch...

*from Brian of Windermere*

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul ♦  
and forget not all his benefits, and church expenses;
- 2 Who forgives all your howlers ♦  
and deals with all your clangers;
- 3 Who redeems your life from the Pit Bull Terrier, ♦  
other parishioners' dogs, cats and disgruntled spouses.
- 4 Lord, put the wicked in slippery places, ♦  
but not to complain to the council for not de-icing the pavements.
- 5 Prevent evil-doers from mistakenly calling me a curator, and not a curate. ♦  
One looks after a museum, the other looks after a, er...museum.
- 6 Open the ears of those who do not listen, ♦  
or at least turn on their hearing aids.
- 7 Keep us from Swine Flu, Wine Flu and most definitely Whine Flu; ♦  
from those who are not happy whatever we do.
- 8 Lord, smite them with your smitey thing, ♦  
and show them who is boss.