

A Morning Prayer for St John's Day



While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread Had seized their troubled minds; "Glad
tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind

"To you, in David's town, this day, Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; And this shall be the sign

The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly
wrapped in swaddling-clothes And in a manger laid.

O God, come to our aid: O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory to the Father, glory to the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 95

**Today a Saviour is born for us, he is Christ the Lord.
Today a Saviour is born for us, Jesus Christ.**

O sing to God a song that is new! Sing, heav'n and earth!
Proclaim the joy of his help this day! Sing praise to God!
**Today a Saviour is born for us, he is Christ the Lord.
Today a Saviour is born for us, Jesus Christ.**

Rejoice, you seas and thunder his praise! Sing, heav'n and earth!
For gift of the land and fruit that it bears! Sing praise to God!
**Today a Saviour is born for us, he is Christ the Lord.
Today a Saviour is born for us, Jesus Christ.**

O shake with joy, you trees of the wood! Sing, heav'n and earth!
Our king has come to bring justice and peace ! Sing praise to God.

Today a Saviour is born for us, he is Christ the Lord.
Today a Saviour is born for us, Jesus Christ.

Let us pray

Loving God,
as we honour St John, the friend of the Lord,
we ask that we too may truly be one with him
who is the way, the truth and the life.
We ask this through him
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

From the Prologue of the Gospel of St John verse 3

Jesus, Redeemer, Lamb of God.
You are with me always, you are my Lord.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
full of grace and truth; we've seen his glory.
He is the only Son of God, who has given us himself,
in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Jesus, Redeemer, Lamb of God.
You are with me always, you are my Lord.

Short reading

Acts 4: 19-20

But Peter and John replied, "Which is right in God's eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Benedictus

verse 5

For all our sins will freely be forgiven,
the heart of God pours loving-kindness forth,
God comes to us like dawn comes to the sky
bringing true light, where darkness once prevailed.
So all who live in fear of death's dark shadow,
God will now guide into the way of peace.

Intercessions

We are part of a building that has the apostles for its foundation.
Let us pray to the Father for all his children.
Lord, hear us.

Father, when Jesus rose from the dead,
you showed him first to Mary Magdalen and the apostles.
Let your Church continue to let him be known.
Lord, hear us.

Your Son came to give Good News to those most in need:
Let your Church bring his light wherever there is darkness.
Lord, hear us.

Your Son brought peace and reconciliation:
Let all your children welcome that peace and be reconciled to each other.

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.

Blessing

May the Lord bless us and keep us from all harm;
and may he lead us to eternal life.

Amen

Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:
joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
with the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the new-born King.

Psalm 95: Noel S Donnelly © Kevin Mayhew. Prologue of St John's Gospel: Frank Docherty © Kevin Mayhew (Focus on Advent and Christmas ((Out of print)). Cantic of Zechariah: The Benedictus. Words © Stephen Smyth from Luke 1 : 67-79 (tune: Finlandia). Hark, the herald angels sing: Charles Wesley 1743, George Whitefield 1753, Martin Madan 1760 and others.