

# The Order of Evening Prayer

*The Minister begins Evening Prayer by reading one or more of the following Scripture Sentences, followed by the corresponding passages. The Minister may also proceed directly to the Lord's Prayer at their discretion.*

## **Opening Sentences:**

"The Lord is present in His sacred temple; let the whole earth be silent before Him." - Habakkuk 2:20

"I love the house where You dwell, O Lord, the place where Your glory resides." - Psalm 26:8

"May my prayer be set before You like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice." - Psalm 141:2

"Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of Him." - Psalm 96:9

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer." - Psalm 19:14

"When the wicked turn from their wickedness and do what is right and just, they will save their souls." - Ezekiel 18:27

"Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities." - Psalm 51:9

"Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." - Joel 2:13

"The sacrifices God desires are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." - Psalm 51:17

## **Seasonal Sentences:**

### *Advent:*

"Stay awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, whether in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or at dawn. Watch!" - St. Mark 13:35, 36

### *Christmas:*

"Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God." - Revelation 21:3

### *Epiphany:*

"Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." - Isaiah 60:3

### *Lent:*

"I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me." - Psalm 51:3

"To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in His laws which He set before us." - Daniel 9:9, 10

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." - 1 John 1:8, 9

*Good Friday:*

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." - Isaiah 53:6

*Easter:*

"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." - 1 Corinthians 15:57

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." - Colossians 3:1

*Ascension:*

"Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." - Hebrews 9:24

*Whitsunday:*

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells." - Psalm 46:4

"The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let the one who hears say, 'Come!' Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life." - Revelation 22:17

*Trinity Sunday:*

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." - Isaiah 6:3

**The Exhortation:**

Beloved brethren, the Scriptures encourage us in various places to acknowledge and confess our many sins and wickedness. We should not hide or deny them before Almighty God, our heavenly Father, but rather confess them with a humble, contrite heart, seeking His infinite goodness and mercy. While we should always humbly acknowledge our sins before God, it is especially fitting to do so when we gather together to give thanks for the great blessings we have received, to praise His holy Word, and to seek what is necessary for both our physical and spiritual well-being. Therefore, I pray and beseech all of you who are present to join me with pure hearts and humble voices as we approach the throne of heavenly grace, saying...

**General Confession:** *(All kneel)*

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the desires of our own hearts, and we have sinned against Your holy laws. We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done. There is no health in us. But You, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent. According to Your promises declared to humanity in Christ Jesus our Lord, grant us forgiveness, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. For His sake, grant that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life to the glory of Your holy Name. *Amen.*

**Declaration of Absolution:** *(Pronounced by the Presbyter)*

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of a sinner but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to His ministers to declare and pronounce to His people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent and unfeignedly believe His holy Gospel. Therefore, let us beseech Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, so that our present actions may please Him, and that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, leading us to eternal joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**The Lord's Prayer:** *(All kneel and recite the Lord's Prayer together)*

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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

**Opening Versicles:**

O Lord, open our lips.\*

Response: And our mouths shall declare Your praise.

**Glory Be and Praise:**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. *Amen.*

Praise the Lord." \*

Response: The Lord's Name be praised.

¶ *Then shall follow a portion of the Psalms according to the use of this Church. And at the end of every Psalm, and likewise at the end of the Magnificat, Cantate Domino, Bonum est confiteri, Nunc dimittis, Deus misereatur, Benedic, anima mea, may be sung or said the Gloria Patri; and at the end of the whole portion or selection of Psalms for the day, shall be sung or said the Gloria Patri, or else the Gloria in excelsis, as follows.*

**Gloria Patri**

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.*

**Gloria in excelsis**

GLORY be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. YOU that takes away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.

YOU that sits at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For YOU only are holy; YOU only are the Lord; YOU only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, are most high in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

¶ *Then shall be read the FIRST LESSON, as it is appointed.*

¶ *And after that shall be sung or said the Magnificat, or one of the Evening Canticles following.*

¶ *But note, That the Minister, at his discretion, may omit one of the Lessons in Evening Prayer, the Lesson read being followed by an Evening Canticle.*

**Magnificat.** St. Luke 1:46-55

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded \*  
the lowliness of his hand- maiden.

For behold, from henceforth \*  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; \*  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him \*  
throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; \*  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, \*  
*and hath exalted the humble and meek.*  
*He hath filled the hungry with good things; \**  
*and the rich he hath sent empty away.*  
*He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; \**  
*as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.*

¶ *Or this Psalm.*

**Cantate Domino.** Psalm 98

SING unto the LORD a new song; \*  
for he hath done marvelous things.  
With his own right hand, and with his holy arm \*  
hath he gotten himself the victory.  
The LORD declared his salvation; \*  
his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen.  
He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel; \*  
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.  
Show yourselves joyful unto the LORD, all ye lands; \*  
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.  
Praise the LORD upon the harp; \*  
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.  
With trumpets also and shawms, \*  
O show yourselves joyful before the LORD, the King.  
Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is; \*  
the round world, and they that dwell therein.  
Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the LORD; \*  
for he cometh to judge the earth.  
With righteousness shall he judge the world, \*  
and the peoples with equity.

¶ *Or this.*

**Bonum est confiteri.** from Psalm 92

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, \*  
and to sing praises unto thy Name, O Most Highest;  
To tell of thy loving-kindness early in the morning, \*  
and of thy truth in the night season;  
Upon an instrument of ten strings, and upon the lute; \*  
upon a loud instrument, and upon the harp.  
For thou, LORD, hast made me glad through thy works; \*  
and I will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of thy hands.

¶ *Then may be read the SECOND LESSON, taken out of the New Testament, as it is appointed.*

¶ *And after that shall be sung or said the Hymn called Nunc dimittis, as follows.*

**Nunc dimittis.** St. Luke 2:29-32

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, \*  
according to thy word.  
For mine eyes have seen \*  
thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared \*  
before the face of all people;  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \*  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

¶ *Or else this Psalm.*

**Deus misereatur.** Psalm 67

GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us, \*  
and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us;  
That thy way may be known upon earth, \*  
thy saving health among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise thee, O God; \*  
yea, let all the peoples praise thee.  
O let the nations rejoice and be glad; \*  
for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.  
Let the peoples praise thee, O God; \*  
yea, let all the peoples praise thee.  
Then shall the earth bring forth her increase; \*  
and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.  
God shall bless us; \*  
and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

¶ *Or this.*

**Benedic, anima mea.** from Psalm 103

PRAISE the LORD, O my soul; \*  
and all that is within me, praise his holy Name.  
Praise the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and forget not all his benefits:  
Who forgiveth all thy sin, \*  
and healeth all thine infir- mities;  
Who saveth thy life from destruction, \*  
and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness.  
O praise the LORD, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength; \*  
ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his word.  
O praise the LORD, all ye his hosts; \*  
ye servants of his that do his pleasure.  
O speak good of the LORD, all ye works of his, in all places of his dominion: \*  
praise thou the LORD, O my soul.

¶ *Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed by the Minister and the people, standing, except only such days as the Creed of St. Athanasius is appointed to be read.*

**Apostles' Creed**

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose  
again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy catholic church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of sins; the  
resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

## Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father. He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; and His kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

¶ *And after that, these Prayers following, the people devoutly kneeling; the Minister first pronouncing,*

The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with your spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

¶ *Here, if it has not already been said, shall follow the Lord's Prayer.*

Minister. O Lord, show YOUR mercy upon us.

Answer. And grant us YOUR salvation.

Minister. O Lord, save the State.

Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon YOU.

Minister. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. And make YOUR chosen people joyful.

Minister. O Lord, save YOUR people.

Answer. And bless YOUR inheritance.

Minister. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. For it is thou, Lord, only, that makes us dwell in safety.

Minister. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. And take not YOUR Holy Spirit from us.

¶ *Then shall be said the COLLECT OF THE DAY, and after that the Collects and Prayers following.*

## A Collect for Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

## A Collect for Aid against Perils

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thine only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

¶ *Then may be sung a Hymn or an Anthem.*

¶ *And note, That the Minister may here end the Evening Prayer with such general intercessions taken out of this Book, with extemporaneous prayers, or with the Grace, as he shall think fit.*

## Intercessory Prayers:

### **A Prayer for the President and All in Authority** *(For the United States or applicable country)*

ALMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite; Have mercy upon this whole land; and so rule the hearts of thy servants, [N], the President of the United States, [N], the Governor of this State (or Commonwealth), and all others in authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek YOUR honor and glory; and that we and all the people, duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honor them, according to YOUR blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with YOU and the Holy Ghost lives and reigns forever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

### **A Prayer for Our Nation**

O LORD our heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings, Lord of lords, the only Ruler of princes, who does from YOUR heavenly throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we beseech YOU with thy favor to behold our most gracious nation; and so replenish her with the grace of YOUR Holy Spirit, that she may always incline to YOUR will, and walk in thy way: Empower her bountifully with heavenly gifts; grant her in health and prosperity long to live; strengthen her that she may vanquish and overcome all her enemies; and finally, after this life, she may attain everlasting joy and contentment, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Prayer for the Restoration of Families**

ALMIGHTY God, the Fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless all our families: Empower them with YOUR Holy Spirit; restore them to unity and peace; enrich them with YOUR heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to YOUR everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Prayer for the Presiding Bishop** *(For the African Episcopal Church or applicable Province or Diocese)*

LORD of all power and mercy, we earnestly implore YOU to assist with YOUR favor [N], divinely appointed Presiding Bishop of the African Episcopal Church *(Province or Diocese)*: Cause him, we pray, to walk before YOU, and the people committed to his charge, in truth and righteousness; and enable him to use his delegated power to YOUR glory, and to the public good, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **A Prayer for the Clergy and People**

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, and other Clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of YOUR grace; and, that they may truly please YOU, pour upon them the continual dew of YOUR blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

### **A Prayer for All Conditions of Humanity**

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech YOU for all sorts and conditions of men; that YOU would be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for YOUR holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; [\*especially those for whom our (silent) prayers are desired;] that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we plead for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen.*

**General Thanksgiving:**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we, Your unworthy servants, humbly and sincerely thank You for all Your goodness and loving-kindness toward us and all people. We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, especially for the redemption of the world through our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the means of grace. We beseech You to give us a deep sense of Your mercies, that our hearts may be truly thankful. Help us to show forth Your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, as we dedicate ourselves to Your service, walking in holiness and righteousness all our days. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory forever. *Amen.*

**Prayer of St. Chrysostom:**

Almighty God, who has given us the grace to come together in unity to offer our common supplications, hear our prayers and grant what is best for us. Give us knowledge of Your truth in this world and everlasting life in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Closing Benediction:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all forever. *Amen.*     2 Corinthians 13:14: