

Anglican Evening Prayer

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world. By the fourth century, if not earlier, morning and evening had emerged as the pre-eminent hours for the offering of this sacrifice of praise. Evening Prayer is a quiet, reflective occasion, an ideal space for contemplation.

Introduction to Worship

The Sentences

Stay with us, Lord, for evening draws on, and the day is almost over. Luke 24.29

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8.12

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Mark 11.9,10

The Penitential Rite

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Preces

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
Hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Psalms

At the end of the psalm or psalms, silence may be kept and a prayer may be said. The following may be said or sung, or omitted.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen.**

The Song of Mary: Magnificat

Luke 1.46–55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; *
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

Romans 12:1-8

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Be transformed.

We are hearing much about the new normal....whatever that may be...I guess what this phrase reveals is our deep yearning for some degree of certainty in life...for a settled predictability to our days when we are not at the mercy of this unpredictable virus and how it is wreaking havoc with our relationships our ability to interact, our economy and our health system

But Paul's letter reminds us that as people of faith we are always on the move....always in the process of being renewed and transformed. He states that his process of being renewed is to be discerning...not accepting that the standards and measures of our world are necessarily synonymous with God's ways...he is calling us to an independence of mind that seeks to be open to God's calling, God's vision for the world.

In what ways is this present crisis providing us ways to transform the way that we relate to each other and the natural world?

A poem by Lynn Unger Entitled Pandemic
Lynn Unger

Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—

**for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.**

The Song of Simeon: Nunc dimittis

Luke 2.29–32

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; *
your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
a light to reveal you to the nations *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel
Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Litany for Evenings

(In peace let us pray to the Lord, saying, "We pray to you, Lord.")

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We pray to you, Lord.

That the work we have done this day and the people we have met may bring us closer to you,
We pray to you, Lord.

That we may be forgiven our sins and offences,
We pray to you, Lord.

That we may hear and respond to your call to peace and justice,
We pray to you, Lord.

That you will sustain the faith and hope of the weary, the lonely, and the oppressed,
We pray to you, Lord.

That you will strengthen us in your service, and fill our hearts with longing for your kingdom,
We pray to you, Lord.

The Collects

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer for Aid against Perils

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

A Prayer for God's Presence

Creator of the universe, watch over us and keep us in the light of your presence. May our praise continually blend with that of all creation, until we come together to the eternal joys which you promise in your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you, and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together you will hear their requests. Fulfil now our desires and petitions, as may be best for us, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come eternal life; for you, Father, are good and loving, and we glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

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. Save

us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. Amen.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

May the Lord of peace give us peace in all ways and at all times. Amen

Evening Prayer is also available.

© The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2002-2004