

## THE ORDER FOR EVENING PRAYER

The Evening Prayer may be begun by the singing of a Hymn or Anthem. Then the Minister shall read one or more of the following Sentences.

The Sentences for special seasons, appointed to be read in Morning Prayer, may be used also in Evening Prayer.

The LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him. *Hab ii. 20*  
O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

*Psalm xcvi. 9.*

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalm cxli. 2.*

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. *St. John iv. 24.*

Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my Strength and my Redeemer. *Psalm xix. 14.*

WHEN the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive. *Ezek. xviii. 27.*

I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. *Psalm li. 3.*

Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. *Psalm li. 9.*

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. *Psalm li. 17.*

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God; for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. *Joel ii. 13.*

To the LORD our God belong mercies 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. *Dan. ix. 9,10.*

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. *St. Luke xv. 18,19.*

Enter not into judgment with thy servant, O LORD; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. *Psalm cxliii. 2.*

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 St. John i. 8,9.*

Then shall the Minister say, in whole or in part, this EXHORTATION:

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy.

And although we ought, at all times, humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things that are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me, with a pure heart and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, -- saying:

Or this:

DEARLY beloved brethren, I pray and beseech you to accompany me, with a pure heart and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, -- saying:

A GENERAL CONFESSION, to be said by the whole Congregation, with the Minister, all kneeling.

Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred and strayed from thy ways, like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O LORD, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our LORD. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

A DECLARATION CONCERNING THE REMISSION OF SINS: to be said by the Minister, standing.

THE Almighty God, the Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath in his holy Word given assurance that he pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him ever to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present, and that the

rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

The People shall answer here, and at the end of every Prayer, Amen.

Then, the Minister, kneeling, shall say the LORD'S PRAYER, the People repeating it with him, both here, and wheresoever else it is used.

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.

Then likewise he shall say,

O LORD, open thou our lips;

*Answer.* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Here, all standing up, the Minister shall say,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*Answer.* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Minister.* Praise ye the LORD.

*Answer.* The LORD's Name be praised.

Then shall follow such portion of the Psalter as the Minister may select. And at the end of each Psalm may be said or sung the *Gloria Patri*. And at the end of the entire portion of the Psalms shall be said or sung the Gloria Patri of the *Gloria in Excelsis*.

*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.

[For the *Gloria in Excelsis* see page 39.]

Then shall be read the first Lesson, from the Old Testament. After which shall be said or sung the following Hymn. But note: At the discretion of the Minister one or two of the Canticles into which it is divided may be omitted.

Note, That before every Lesson, the Minister shall say, *Here beginneth such a Chapter, or Verse of such a Chapter, of such a Book.* And after every Lesson, *Here endeth the first, or, the second Lesson.*

*Magnificat.* St. Luke i. 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 handmaiden:  
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 seats, 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 of his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.  
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.

Or this:

*Cantate Domino.* Psalm xcvi

O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous 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 nations.  
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.  
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.

Or this:

*Bonum est confiteri.* Psalm xcii. 1-4

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.

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.

Then shall be read the second lesson, taken out of the New Testament. And after that shall be sung or said the following Anthem:

*Nunc dimittis.* St. Luke ii. 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 peoples;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

Or -- especially from Septuagesima to Easter Even -- this:

*Deus misereatur.* Psalm lxxvii

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.

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.

Or this:

*Benedic, anima mea.* From Psalm ciii

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 infirmities;  
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 fulfill his  
commandments, 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.  
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.

Then shall be said the APOSTLES CREED [or else the Nicene Creed -- page 68], by the  
Minister and the People, standing: And any churches may insert after the words, "Was  
crucified, dead, and buried," the words, *He descended into hell*, or the words, *He went into  
the place of the departed spirits*.

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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to  
judge the quick 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.

[Note. -- By "The holy Catholic Church" is signified the blessed company of all faithful  
people in Christ.]

Then the Minister shall say,

The LORD be with you;  
*Answer.* And with thy spirit.

*Minister:* Let us pray.

O LORD, show thy mercy upon us;

*Answer:* And grant us thy salvation.

*Minister:* O LORD, save the State;

*Answer:* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

*Answer:* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Minister:* O LORD, save thy people;

*Answer:* And bless thine inheritance.

*Minister:* Give peace in our time, O LORD;

*Answer:* For it is thou, LORD, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

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

*Answer:* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Then may be said the Collect for the Day; and after that, the Collects 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 All 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 thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Here the Minister may end the Evening Prayer with Extemporaneous Prayer and The Grace (2 Cor. xii. 14).

*A Prayer for the President of the United States and all others in Civil Authority*

O LORD, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers upon earth; Most heartily we beseech thee, with thy favor to behold and bless thy servants, (N), THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA, [*Our Representatives in Congress assembled*], (*M*), the Governor of this State, and all others in authority; and so replenish them with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that they may always incline to thy will, and walk in thy way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them in health and prosperity long to live; and finally, after this life, to attain everlasting joy and felicity; through Jesus Christ our LORD. *Amen.*

Here may be used any of the Occasional Prayers (pages 21-31).

The following prayers through page 15 may be used in substitution in Morning Prayer.

*A Prayer for the Holy Spirit*

O GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray thee, this Congregation with thy love and favor; Enlighten their minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; graft in their hearts a love of the truth; increase in them true religion; nourish them with all goodness; and of thy great mercy keep them in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for Christian Faith*

ALMIGHTY God and heavenly Father; Open thou our eyes that we may see ourselves to be sinners in thy sight, partakers of a fallen nature, and actual transgressors against thee. Enable us to realize our continual need, both of thy pardoning mercy and of thy quickening grace, and to receive Jesus Christ as the only Saviour of our souls. May we trust in his atonement, and rely on his intercession, as our only hope. Rejoicing in thy free salvation, and renouncing our own righteousness, may we walk in the way of thy commandments, serving thee faithfully, and striving against every sin; through the grace that is in Christ Jesus our LORD. *Amen.*

*A Prayer for the Impenitent*

O MERCIFUL GOD, who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should be converted and live, and hast revealed thyself as pardoning iniquity through thine only Son; We beseech thee to have mercy upon the impenitent and unbelieving, especially upon such as may be here present. Awaken in them by thy Holy Spirit, a deep sense of their sinfulness and peril. Take from them all ignorance, hardness of heart, and contempt of thy Word. Make them to know and feel that there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby they must be saved, but only the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ. And so fetch them home and number them among thy children, that they may be thine for ever; through

Jesus Christ our LORD, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

### A General Thanksgiving

To be said by the People, with the Minister.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; But above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our LORD Jesus Christ; For the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; And that we may show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; By giving up ourselves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our LORD, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

### *A General Supplication*

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name, thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfill now, O LORD, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

### *The Grace. 2 Cor. xiii. 14*

THE grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

Here endeth the Order for Evening Prayer.