

# Evening Prayer from *The Book of Common Prayer*

*All stand*

*The minister reads one or more of the sentences from the Scriptures and introduces the service*

*A hymn is sung*

*The minister, turning to the People, shall say:*

Dearly beloved,  
[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 most 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 which 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 [after me]:

*or*

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of Almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require.

Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

*or*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

*All sit or kneel to pray*

**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 them, O God, which confess their faults, Restore thou them that are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind In Christ Jesu 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.**

*Or this: (Except on Advent Sunday and the First Sunday in Lent:)*

**O GOD, our Father, we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed: we have not loved thee with all our heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. Have mercy upon us, we beseech thee; cleanse us from our sins; and help us to overcome our faults; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Silence is kept for personal silent confession to God*

*A priest says:*

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; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him 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.**

*or:*

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

*or other ministers may say:*

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,  
to thy faithful people pardon and peace,  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,  
and serve thee with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name;  
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, In earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver  
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power and  
the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

O Lord, open thou our lips  
**And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**  
O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*All stand*

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.**  
Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

*A Psalm is read or sung*

*At the end of each Psalm these words are said or sung:*

**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.**

*All sit*

*The First Bible Reading*

*All stand*

*The Magnificat (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 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 shewed 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.**

**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.**

*All sit*

*The Second Bible Reading*

*All stand*

*The Nunc Dimittis (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.**

**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.**

*The 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  
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 Catholick Church;  
The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;  
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting.  
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

*All sit or kneel to pray*

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;

**And grant us thy salvation.**

O Lord, save the Queen;

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

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

O Lord, save thy people;

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord;

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us;

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

*Three Collects are said:*

*The Collect of the Day*

*The Second Collect for Evening Prayer:*

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 both 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.**

*The Third 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.**

*A hymn is sung (All stand)*

*All sit*

*A sermon is preached or talk given*

*Silence is kept*

*Prayers for others and ourselves*

*A hymn is sung and a voluntary money offering is taken up*

*A blessing or benediction is said to end the service*