

## Wednesday 3 August 2022: Evening Prayer

### PREPARATION

#### OPENING SENTENCES

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening  
**And the day is almost over.**

Let your light scatter the darkness  
**And illumine your church.**

*John 1: 5; 8: 12; Luke 24: 29*

#### PENITENCE

Heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault;  
by what we have done  
and by what we have failed to do.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### VERICLES AND RESPONSES

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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

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

### THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In the beginning you separated light from darkness  
and placed all your works in our hands.  
You have given us the light of day  
that we might see your wonders  
in all we say and do;

you give us the gentle darkness of the night  
that we might rest from our burdens  
and be refreshed in body and spirit.

Break through the darkness of our sins  
with the splendour of your mercy and love.  
Send your light to dispel our fears and anxieties  
and fill us with hope and joy.

Glory, praise and honour are yours, O God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## FIRST CANTICLE

### A SONG OF THE LIGHT

Hail, gladdening light, of his pure glory poured,  
Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,  
Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest.  
The lights of evening round us shine:  
We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung  
With undefiled tongue.  
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:  
Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

### THE WORD OF GOD

Psalm 4

- 1 Unless the Lord builds the house, ♦  
those who build it labour in vain.
- 2 Unless the Lord keeps the city, ♦  
the guard keeps watch in vain.
- 3 It is in vain that you hasten to rise up early  
and go so late to rest, eating the bread of toil, ♦  
for he gives his beloved sleep.
- 4 Children are a heritage from the Lord ♦  
and the fruit of the womb is his gift.
- 5 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, ♦  
so are the children of one's youth.
- 6 Happy are those who have their quiver full of them: ♦  
they shall not be put to shame  
when they dispute with their enemies in the gate.

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.

**Luke 12: 22-31**

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

**ADDRESS**

*Silence for Meditation*

**PRAYERS**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. **Amen.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

O Lord, guide and defend our rulers  
**and grant our government wisdom.**

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness  
**and let your servants shout for joy.**

O Lord, save your people  
**and bless those whom you have chosen.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord,  
**and let your glory be over all the earth.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us  
**and renew us by your Holy Spirit.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us;  
**and take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

### INTERCESSIONS

For peace among the nations,  
that God may rid the world of violence  
and let peoples grow in justice and harmony...  
God of love  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who serve in public office,  
that they may work for the common good...  
God of love  
**hear our prayer.**

For Christian people everywhere,  
that we may joyfully proclaim  
and live our faith in Jesus Christ...  
God of love  
**hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer from hunger, sickness or loneliness,  
that the presence of Christ  
may bring them health and wholeness...  
God of love  
**hear our prayer.**

### THANKSGIVINGS

Gracious God,  
we thank you that you are always with us,  
in the bad times as well as the good,  
the difficult as well as the easy,  
the sad as well as the happy.  
Lord of all hopefulness,  
**hear our prayer.**

We thank you that, though we have sometimes  
been unsure of the way ahead,  
you have always been there to guide us,  
though we have felt discouraged,  
you have offered us fresh inspiration,  
though we have been in despair,  
you have given us hope.  
Lord of all hopefulness,  
**hear our prayer.**

We thank you for the assurance this brings us  
that your steadfast love never ceases,  
that your mercies are new every morning,  
that great is your faithfulness.  
Lord of all hopefulness,  
**hear our prayer.**

May that conviction give us confidence in the days ahead,  
so that whatever problems we face,  
whatever disappointments we experience,  
whatever sorrows may befall us,

we will still find reason to look forward,  
reason to believe in the future,  
and reason to hope.  
Lord of all hopefulness,  
**hear our prayer,  
in the name of Christ. Amen.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
Graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### COLLECTS AT EVENING PRAYER

O God  
from whom all holy desires  
all good judgements  
and all just works proceed:  
Give to your servants  
that peace which the world cannot give,  
that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments,  
and that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies,  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, O Lord, we pray  
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.**

### THE ENDING

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13: 14

**DISMISSAL**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**BLESSING**