

COMPLINE

Prayer at the Close of the Day

OPENING HYMN

“In Our Darkness”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E9RMJ3Tafds>

“In our darkness, there is no darkness with You, O Lord.
The deepest night is clear as the day.”

L The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
C Amen.

L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
C to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

L to herald Your love in the morning,
C Your truth at the close of the day.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination

L I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
C The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

- C** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
- C** Amen.

PSALM 25

- L** To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.
- C** Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- L** Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.
- C** Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.
- L** Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- C** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!
- L** Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- C** He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
- L** All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rules, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 8:38–39)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith. (1 Peter 5:6–9a)

RESPONSORY

L Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

C Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

L You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

THE LITANY

P O Lord,

P O Christ,

P O Lord,

P O Christ,

P God the Father in heaven,

C have mercy.

C have mercy.

C have mercy.

C hear us.

C have mercy.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| P | God the Son, Redeemer of the world, | C | have mercy. |
| P | God the Holy Spirit, | C | have mercy. |
| P | Be gracious to us. | C | Spare us, good Lord. |
| P | Be gracious to us. | C | Help us, good Lord. |

- P** From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pandemic and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**

- P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**

- P** We poor sinners beg You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**

- P** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
C **We beg You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weak-hearted and the distressed:

C **We beg You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our officials and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C **We beg You to hear us, good Lord.**

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We beg You to hear us, good Lord.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C **we beg You to hear us.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

P O Christ,

P O Lord,

P O Christ,

P O Lord,

C **hear us.**

C **have mercy.**

C **have mercy.**

C **have mercy. Amen.**

OTHER PRAYERS AND PETITIONS

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L Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever

C Amen.

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **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
 forever and ever. Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS (SONG OF SIMEON)

- L** Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.
- C** **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 ev'ry people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.
Guide us waking, O Lord,
and guard us sleeping
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

BENEDICTION

- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.
- C** **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

<https://www.thehymnalproject.com/advent>

(1) Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold the King of Glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sign.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

(2) A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

(3) How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

(4) Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!