



Daily Prayer

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Services of Daily Prayer

An Introduction

All believers share the urge to place the beginning and the ending of the day in God's hands. From earliest times, Christ's victory over death has been symbolized by the dawning of a new day and the lighting of lamps at the close of day.

When we gather in community, we express longing for fellowship with God in what is often called 'devotions'. The following services for various times of day have been prepared with this common practice in mind. They may be used by individuals or groups, in the home or the church, within meetings or informal gatherings, and adapted to suit the local context.

The **common elements** of weekday worship are **song, scripture, silence, and prayer**. The focus of the service is praise of God and prayer for the whole world. Symbols of our faith—a cross, a Bible, a candle—are helpful but not essential, and are always secondary to the symbol of the Christian community gathered for prayer. The sense of community is heightened when worshippers stand or sit in a circle. Leadership may be offered from within the circle or from a lectern. It is intended that the services be led by one or more lay persons.

Songs, hymns, responses, and the Lord's Prayer may all be sung, with or without accompaniment. Singing together is a powerful expression of faith.

One or more passages of **scripture** may be read. The scripture chosen should encourage praise and prayer.

Silence for the purpose of meditation and reflection is recommended following a reading from scripture. A commentary or brief meditation may be offered, but is not essential. In response to a reading, a hymn or verse of a hymn may also be sung, the people remaining seated.

Prayer may be offered in the personal words of the leader or read from among the prayers provided. Within the prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, worshippers are invited to name particular people or events. Material in square brackets may be included as appropriate. Careful explanation, perhaps prior to the service, will help worshippers enter more fully into the prayers.

When **Daily Prayer for Late Afternoon or Evening** begins with Thanksgiving for Light, the Opening Sentences, Prayer, and Evening Hymn are omitted.

As we offer praise and prayers by day or at dusk, may we find afresh the power of the resurrection in our common life in Christ.

Daily Prayer for Morning or Mid-Day Devotions

Opening Sentences

All occasions

O God, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. (Psalm 51)

In the morning

I pray to you, O God;
**you hear my voice
in the morning;**
at sunrise I offer my prayer
and wait for your answer.
(Psalm 5)

At mid-day

Those who wait for God
shall renew their strength,
**they shall mount up
with wings like eagles;**
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
(Isaiah 40)

Prayer

Morning

Let us pray:

Holy God,
you call us together
to reflect on your Word,
and our life in your world.
Be with us now
as we sing and pray together,
that we may hear your voice
and understand your way.
This we pray through
Jesus, the Christ. **Amen.**

Mid-day

Let us pray:

Sustaining God,
in the midst of our day,
and embraced by your world,
we call upon your wisdom;
we draw upon your strength;
we rely upon your grace.
Help us to continue faithfully in your way,
by the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Hymn and/or Psalm

A hymn, if included, will be chosen to suit the time of day or occasion. A psalm for the morning (one of psalms 51, 63, 67, or 95) or another is always appropriate.

Scripture

At the end of the reading, the reader may say:

Hear what the Spirit	or	The word of God.
is saying to the church.		Thanks be to God.
Thanks be to God.		

Silent reflection

Silence may be followed by a variety of responses, such as action, music, or words.

A Scripture Song (see pages 900, 901) may be sung.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

One of the following prayers (A or B) or another may be offered. At various points during the prayers, a sung response may be used (see 948–954).

A

Thanksgiving

Generous and loving God,
 we thank you for your blessings without number.
 We bless you for the beauty of creation:
 for day and night, for summer and winter;
 for sun and rain, for seed-time and harvest;
 for your bounty supplying all our needs.
 We bless you for protecting us in our weakness,
 and renewing our strength of spirit;
 for guiding us as we resist evil,
 and calling us to your truth, and to your service.
 We praise you for sending Jesus to be among us:
 for his life on earth, his sufferings and death,
 for his resurrection to new life, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 Grant, O God, that our hearts may grow in thankfulness
 for these and all your gifts of grace,
 so that as the people of new life, we may proclaim your praise;
 [in Jesus' name. **Amen.**]

Intercessions

Each portion of the prayer may conclude:

Gracious God, hear our prayer;
and in your love, answer.

Compassionate God,

hear us as we pray:

for your church and its varied ministries . . .

for the work of justice and the healing of creation . . .

for the care of strangers, neighbours, family, friends . . .

for those isolated by sickness, sorrow, violence, fear . . .

for those broken by the world . . .

for those who face death . . .

Generous and compassionate God,

in your loving purpose, answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes;

and in all things for which we pray,

give us grace and wisdom to accept your will,

for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

or **B**

Thanksgiving

Bountiful God, we lift our voices in prayers of praise,

for you have raised us to new life in Jesus Christ,

and your blessings to us and to your world

come in generous measure.

In our hearts and with our voices, we name before you

that for which we give thanks:

Specific events and people may be named.

Intercessions

Each portion of the prayer may conclude:

Gracious God, hear our prayer;

and in your love, answer.

Merciful God, you are close to all in need,

and by our prayers we draw close to you.

Claiming your love in Christ Jesus for the whole world,

we dare to pray for others.

Committing ourselves to care in his name for those around us,
 we bring our prayers and concerns for friend and stranger:
Prayers for people and events, both near and far, may be offered.

Gracious God, hear our prayer,
And in your love, answer.

Bountiful and merciful God,
 accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;
 through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

With Jesus,
 we pray together, saying:

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 forever. **Amen.**

As children turn to a mother
 who watches over them,
 let us turn to God, saying:

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.**

A hymn may be sung

Blessing

May we continue to grow in the grace
 and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Bless God's name.

Thanks be to God.

or The God of peace be with us.

Amen.

Bless the name of God.

Thanks be to God.

Daily Prayer For Late Afternoon or Evening Devotions

The service begins with either Thanksgiving for Light or Opening Sentences

Thanksgiving for Light

After all have gathered, a candle is lit in the midst of the community.

Light and peace in Jesus Christ!
Thanks be to God.

or

Jesus Christ,
you are the light of the world,
**light shining in deepest night,
which cannot overcome it.**
Stay with us now, for it is evening;
the day is almost over.

Let us pray:

We give you thanks and praise,
O God of endless light,
through our Saviour, Jesus Christ.
In him your light
shines in our hearts
and reveals the light
that never fades.
As daylight comes to an end
and darkness begins to fall,
we thank you for the light of day
created for our work and pleasure,
and bless you for the gift
of this evening light.
All praise to you, O God,
through Jesus Christ, in whom
all glory and honour is yours,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the holy church
now and forever. **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Our help is in the name of God,
who made heaven and earth.

Let us give thanks
to our sovereign God
**who is worthy of all
thanksgiving and praise.**

Prayer

Let us pray:

Loving God,
in whose mercy we find our peace,
in whose presence we find our place,
in whose world we find our calling:
grant us grace to hear
and accept your Word,
that we may be faithful followers
of your will and your way all our days.
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

or

Let us pray:

O God, our Guide and Companion,
you have brought us
through this day
to a time of reflection and rest.
Calm our souls,
and refresh us with your peace.
In Christ, draw us closer
to one another
in the bonds of his love.
We pray in the power of the Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn to Christ the Light

See numbers 434 and 435.

Hymn

A hymn, if included, will be chosen to suit the time of day or the occasion.

Psalm

A psalm for evening (one of Psalms 23, 51, 63, 141) or another is always appropriate.

Scripture

At the end of the reading, the reader may say:

Hear what the Spirit
is saying to the church.

or The word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Silence may be followed by a variety of responses, such as action, music, or words.

A Scripture Song (see pages 898, 899, or 878) may be sung.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

One of the following prayers (A or B) or another may be offered. At various points during the prayers, a sung response may be used (see 948–954).

A

Thanksgiving

Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for the blessings of life.

We bless you for the wonders of the world:

for heights of mountains and breadth of prairie,
for diversity of peoples and intimacy of families,
for the goodness of all you have made.

We bless you for the gift of Jesus Christ,

who lived and died, and lives again
wherever justice is known, wherever love is found.

We bless you for your life among us

forgiving sins, renewing spirits,
and refreshing us in the fellowship of your table.

Grant, O God, that in the quietness of the evening
 and in the hush of the night,
 our hearts may be filled with thankfulness
 for these and all your blessings;
 [in the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**]

Intercessions

Each portion of the prayer may conclude:

Gracious God, hear our prayer;
and in your love, answer.

Mighty and tender God,
 hear us as we pray,
 for you bring release to the captives and rest to the weary,
 and you know the way of suffering in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

We pray:
 for the church throughout the world in its life and ministries . . .
 for the nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .
 for all who suffer: the sick, the sorrowful, the lonely, the oppressed . . .
 for peaceful relationships among friends, among strangers . . .

Tender and mighty God, in your loving purpose
 answer our prayers and fulfil our hopes.
 In all things for which we pray,
 give us the grace and wisdom to accept your will,
 for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

or **B**

Thanksgiving

We give you our praise and thanks, O Holy God,
 for all the gifts of love we have received from you,
 and for your light revealed in Jesus Christ.
 We bless you for the wonders of creation,
 the delights of human companionship
 and the assurances of faith.
 Especially today we thank you for . . .

Specific events and people may be named.

Intercessions

Each portion of the prayer may conclude:

Gracious God, hear our prayer;
and in your love, answer.

We lift up our concerns for others, O God of compassion.
 In Jesus Christ, your saving love scattered the power of death
 and your eternal light shines in the darkness.
 With confidence, we remember before you the suffering of humanity
 and the brokenness of the world.
 Especially today we pray for . . .

Specific prayers for people and events, near and far, may be named.

Holy and compassionate God,
 accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;
 through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

With Jesus,
 we pray together saying:

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 forever. Amen.

As children turn to a mother
 who watches over them,
 let us turn to God, saying:

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.

A hymn may be sung

Blessing

May the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
guard our hearts and minds
in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

or May the grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with us all,
this night and always. **Amen.**
