



An Order for Evening Prayer

during Christmas Season

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

You laid the foundation of the earth

All and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,

our light and our salvation,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

To dispel the darkness of our night

you sent forth your Son, the firstborn of all creation,

to be the Christ, the light of the world.

Rejoicing in the mystery of the Word made flesh,

we acclaim him Emmanuel, as all creation sings to you:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Of the Father's heart begotten,

ere the world from chaos rose,

he is Alpha: from that fountain

all that is and has been flows;

he is Omega, of all things

yet to come the mystic close,

evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday,

when the Maid the curse retrieved,

brought to birth mankind's salvation,

by the Holy Ghost conceived;

and the Babe, the world's redeemer,

in her loving arms received,

evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
angels and archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Prudentius, tr: R F Davis (Tune: 87 87 87 7)

This opening prayer may be said

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

**All 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.**

If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both may be read after the canticle.

Canticle

**All Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

1 The Father has delivered us from the dominion of darkness, •
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son;

2 In whom we have redemption, •
the forgiveness of our sins.

3 He is the image of the invisible God, •
the firstborn of all creation.

4 For in him all things were created, •
in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

5 All things were created through him and for him, •
he is before all things and in him all things hold together.

6 He is the head of the body, the Church, •
he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.

7 In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell; •
and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things.

Colossians 1.13-18a, 19, 20a

**All 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.**

**All Christ is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.

***All The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.***

And we have seen his glory,
the glory as of a father's only son,

All full of grace and truth.

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

***All The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.***

from John 1

Gospel Cantic

Refrain:

***All When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night was in the midst of her swift course:
from your royal throne, O God, down from the
heavens,
leapt your almighty Word.***

I My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

- 2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; •
the Almighty has done great things for me
and holy is his name.
- 3 He has mercy on those who fear him, •
from generation to generation.
- 4 He has shown strength with his arm •
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
- 5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones •
and lifting up the lowly.
- 6 He has filled the hungry with good things •
and sent the rich away empty.
- 7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, •
to remember his promise of mercy,
- 8 The promise made to our ancestors, •
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Luke 1.46-55

**All 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.**

**All When peaceful silence lay over all,
and night was in the midst of her swift course:
from your royal throne, O God, down from the
heavens,
leapt your almighty Word.**

Prayers

Thanksgiving may be made for the day.

Intercessions are offered

¶ *for peace*

¶ *for individuals and their needs*

This cycle and this prayer may be used.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

(or)

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day or the following is said

Almighty God,

who wonderfully created us in your own image

and yet more wonderfully restored us

through your Son Jesus Christ:

grant that, as he came to share our humanity,

so we may share the life of his divinity;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

May God, who has called us out of darkness
into his marvellous light,
bless us and fill us with peace.

All **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**