

Evening Prayer for Passiontide

From the Fifth Sunday in Lent until Easter Vigil

A PENITENTIAL OFFICE

The presider may read one of the following sentences of scripture.

- Remember me, O Lord, when you show favour to your people; help me when you deliver them; that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation, that I may glory in your heritage. *Psalms 105.4-5*
- Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death. *John 8.51*
- Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers. *Jeremiah 20.13*

The presider then says,

Let us confess our sins
against God and our neighbour.

Silence is kept. Then either of the following is said.

God of all mercy,
**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore and strengthen us
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
so that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Or

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,**

by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

The presider says,

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by the Holy Spirit
and raise us to new life in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Or

Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Evening Prayer continues with the Introductory Responses.

Introductory Responses

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our hope.
Thanks be to God.

Or

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
A light no darkness can extinguish.

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
As we behold your Son, enthroned on the cross,
stir up in us the fire of your love,
so that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and walk with you in newness of life,
singing the praises of him who died
for us and for our salvation.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Psalm

A Psalm from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is said or sung.

At the end of the Psalm one of the following may be said or sung.

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

Evening Prayer continues with the Reading.

The Reading

A Reading from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is read. After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer continues with the Responsory or the Canticle or both. If two Readings are read, then the Responsory follows the first Reading and the Canticle the second.

The Responsory

The Responsory is said or sung.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.
God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

We preach Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.

By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Evening Prayer continues with [the Second Reading or] the Canticle or an Affirmation of Faith.

The Canticle

Any of the following canticles may be said or sung.

The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, *

for you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, *

from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm *

and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, *

to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our ancestors, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Or

The Song of Christ's Glory (Philippians 2.5-11)

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, *

but he did not cling to equality with God.
He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant *
and was born in human likeness.
Being found in human form he humbled himself *
and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him *
and bestowed on him the name above every
name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, *
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord *
to the glory of God the Father.

Or

A Song of Christ the Servant (1 Peter 2.21b-25)

Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, *
that you should follow in his steps.
He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips, *
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.
When he suffered, he did not threaten, *
but he trusted himself to God who judges justly.
Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, *
so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds, you have been healed, *
for you were straying like sheep,
but now have returned *
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

At the end of the Canticle one of the following may be said or sung.

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

Evening Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

Affirmation of Faith

One of the following Affirmations of Faith may be said or sung.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Or

Hear, O Israel

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Let us offer our praises and prayers
to the one who intercedes for us, saying,
“Lamb of God, we praise you.”

Lord Jesus, you embraced the cross
so that we might learn to give our lives for the sake of love:
Lamb of God, we praise you.

Innocent captive,
you submitted to the judgement of sinners:
Lamb of God, we praise you.

In the hour of death you heard the penitent thief
and opened to him the door of paradise:
Lamb of God, we praise you.

Most merciful Saviour,
you have known the pain of abandonment:
Lamb of God, we praise you.

Lord, you love all whom God has made
and gave up your own self for them:
Lamb of God, we praise you.

Through your self-offering
you have brought the crown of life to all people:
Lamb of God, we praise you.

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud.

Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the persecuted Church;*
- *the oppressed peoples of the world;*
- *all who are lonely;*
- *all who are near to death and*
- *all who are facing loss.*

After a period of silence the Collect of the Day or the following collects may be said or sung.

Palm/Passion Sunday to Good Friday

Sovereign God, you have established your rule over the human heart, not by force but by the servant example of Jesus Christ. Move us by your Spirit to join the joyful procession of those who confess Christ Jesus with their tongues and praise him with their lives. **Amen.**

Evening Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Standing at the foot of the cross
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Evening Prayer continues with the Dismissal.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross, set us free to serve with him in joy.
Amen.