

AN ORDER FOR
MORNING PRAYER AND EVENING PRAYER
FOR USE ON SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS

The Gathering of God's People

THE GREETING

Stand

The minister greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all
and also with you.

or

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

or, from Easter Day to the Day of Pentecost

Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The minister introduces the service with these or other suitable words

We have come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
and to pray for the needs of the world,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

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

Let us worship the Lord.
All praise to his name.

The minister continues

Morning

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
creator of heaven and earth,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As your living Word, eternal in heaven,
assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh,
may the light of your love be born in us
to fill our hearts with joy as we say:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Evening

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.
Blessed be God for ever.

A hymn may be sung.

PENITENCE

The prayers of penitence may take place after the Sermon during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

Penitential Kyries are provided on page 225 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Confession is introduced with these words

Morning Prayer

The sun of righteousness has dawned
with healing in his wings. *Malachi 4: 2*
Let us come to the light of Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

or

**We go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory.**

The Collect of the Day and the Lord's Prayer are said if not used previously.

The Blessing

A priest blesses the people with these or other suitable words

Christ, who by his incarnation
gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always.
Amen.

*If no priest is present the Blessing is omitted
and the following prayer may be said*

The almighty and merciful Lord,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless us and keep us.
Amen.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

or

The minister says

Blessed are you, Holy God,
creator, redeemer and life-giver;
you have spoken the world into being
and filled it with wonder and beauty.
For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy God,
for people of every language and culture
and for the rich variety you give to life.
For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy God,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,
truly divine and truly human,
living and dying for us,
and going before us into heaven.
For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Holy God,
for your Spirit, the fire of love burning in our hearts,
bringing us to faith, and calling us to holiness
in the Church and in the world.
For every blessing we have received
we give you thanks and praise.

Let us say together:
**Be with us Lord,
as we go out into the world.
May the lips that have sung your praise
always speak the truth;
may the ears which have heard your Word
listen only to what is good
and may our lives as well as our worship
be always pleasing in your sight,
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Evening Prayer

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,
we confess that we have sinned against you;
we have broken your commandments;
we have often been selfish,
and we have not loved you as we should.
For these, and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Or this form may be used

God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins.
For turning away from you,
and ignoring your will for our lives;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your Son;
Father, forgive us:
save us and help us.

The priest pronounces the absolution

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*If no priest is present the absolution is omitted
and the following prayer may be said*

May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The minister says

Your word is a lantern to my feet
and a light upon our path. *c.f. Psalm 119:105*

O Lord, your word is everlasting:
it stands firm for ever in the heavens. *c.f. Psalm 119:89*

Let us then receive the word of the Lord.
so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

The reader says

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

One or more of the appointed psalms is sung, ending with

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. | A|men.

The reader says

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE FIRST READING

THE PSALM

THE SECOND READING

A CANTICLE

*If the Collect of the Day and the Lord's Prayer are used at this point in the service, they are
not used during the Dismissal.*

A hymn may be sung during which the collection may be received.

Going Out as God's People

A THANKSGIVING

The minister says

Let us give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

For the love of our Father,
the maker of all, the giver of all good things,
let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

For Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lived and worked among us,
let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

For his suffering and death on the cross
and his resurrection to new life,
let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

For his rule over all things
and his presence in the world,
let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

For the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,
who teaches us and guides us,
let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

For the grace of the Spirit in the work of the Church
and the life of the world,
let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prince of peace,
you bring reconciliation through the cross:
by your healing power give to all who suffer ...
your gift of wholeness and peace.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the Father,
full of the Spirit,
**hear our prayer, receive our praises,
fill our lives. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we pray:

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

or

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we are bold to pray:

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 THIRD READING

If three readings are used this is always a Gospel Reading.

The reader says

A reading from ... chapter ... beginning at verse ...

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A CANTICLE

if the third reading is used.

A COLLECT OF THE WORD

may be said here or following the Sermon.

THE SERMON

Penitence may take place at this point during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

A hymn may be sung.

The Response to God's Word

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.

This affirmation or a scriptural affirmation of faith may be used instead of the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

I believe and trust in him

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit
who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**we believe and trust in One God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Prayers of the People

Either of the following, or other seasonally appropriate prayers and intercessions, may be used.

Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour.

Christ, born in a stable,
give courage to all who are homeless.

Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang,
give the song of the kingdom to all who weep.

Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds,
give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt,
give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger,
give the glory of your resurrection
to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Saviour,
hear our prayer.

**Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives and hear our prayer.
Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

or

Let us pray to our incarnate Lord,
who has brought us out of darkness
and into his own marvellous light.

Christ born for us,
Son of God given for us:
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Wonderful counsellor,
you order all things with your wisdom:
help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love
and fill her with the Spirit of truth ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Mighty God,
the government is on your shoulders:
guide the leaders of the nations
and bring in your kingdom
of justice and righteousness ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father,
you call us to live together in unity:
protect by your mercy all your children,
bless our families and renew our communities ...
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.