

# Evening worship

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## The gathering of the people

The people gather and wait in silence.  
The lights are dimmed.

### Psalm verses and the lighting of candles

Where appropriate the words may be shared by a number of voices.

O Lord, God of my salvation,  
when, at night, I cry out in your presence, let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry. Psalm 88:1-2

(after silence, a candle is lit)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in  
the morning, and your faithfulness by night. Psalm 92:1-2

(after silence, a second candle is lit)

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and for evermore. From the  
rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised. Psalm 113:2-3

(after silence, a third candle is lit)

Blessed be the name of the Lord.  
*All* **Come bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
who stand by night in the house of the Lord!  
Lift up your hands to the holy place,  
and bless the Lord.**  
May the Lord, maker of heaven and earth,  
bless you from Zion. Psalm 134

## Hymn or song

### Prayer for Christ's presence

As the darkness falls and the shadows grow ...  
*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**  
When we are tired and weary and longing for rest ...  
*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**  
While the business of the world goes on  
and when there is no silence ...  
*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**  
Whenever we meet together to curse the darkness  
and to light a flame for justice ...  
*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**

While we cannot find your peace in the world  
and long for your blessing ...

*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we join in the great circle of prayer with all your saints ...

*All* **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

### A night Psalm

Psalm 139 or one of the other night psalms (4,33, 34, 91, 134, 136) may be sung or said.

### Meeting with Christ at evening time

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God.' John 3:1-2a

#### Silence

Let us, in the quietness of evening,  
open our minds and hearts to receive the teaching of Christ,  
so that we may learn to follow him  
and find courage to go with him,  
even on the way of the cross.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. Mark 1:32-33

#### Silence

May we, who have gathered here at sundown,  
bring our pain and suffering to Christ,  
and bring our prayers for others,  
that all may find healing and freedom  
in the presence of God.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you'. John 20:19

#### Silence

Let us, who come bearing many fears,  
and marked by disappointment and failure,  
find here the reconciling peace which Christ gives,  
the hope of new beginnings,  
and the promise of the coming dawn.

They urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. Luke 24:29-31

Silence

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ,  
we have gathered for prayer as the day is nearly over.  
Though we cannot see you before us,  
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,  
that we may recognise your presence  
and know that you are with us,  
and will stay beside us,  
this night and for evermore.  
Amen.**

## Gospel reading

## Reflection on the Gospel

A short spoken reflection may follow or a guided meditation. A picture, icon or painting may illuminate the text. Someone may lead a discussion. A poem may be read or a piece of music played. Or silence may be kept.

## Hymn or song

## Prayers of Intercession

either

Let us pray for the Church, for the world  
and for all who are suffering.

We pray for peace among the nations,  
for the unity of the Church,  
and for the healing of our hearts.

*All* **I call upon you, O Lord, come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.**

Psalm 141:1

We pray for justice in business and in government,  
for true community in the Church,  
and for goodness in all our deeds and words.

**All** **Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice.**

Psalm 141:2

We pray for food and drink for the hungry,  
for rescue for those in peril and danger,  
for comfort for those sorrowing or deeply troubled.

**All** **I call upon you O Lord, come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.**

We pray for those who find the night long and bleak,  
for those who cry out for the morning,  
that they may know the presence of God in the dark hours.

**All** **Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice.**

We pray for those new born this day,  
for those celebrating or remembering a significant time,  
and for those newly baptised and received into the Church.

**All** **I call upon you O Lord, come quickly to me;  
give ear to my voice when I call to you.**

We pray for those who are close to death,  
that they may find peace and rest,  
and be received into God's eternal presence with all the saints.

**All** **Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,  
and the lifting up of my hands  
as an evening sacrifice.**

**Silence**

We pray these and all our prayers  
in the name of Christ.

**All** **I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord.  
Amen.**

Psalm 130:5-6a

or

The people may be invited to light a candle as a symbol of prayer and to say

'I light this candle for ...'

## Hymn or song

### The song of Simeon

*All* **Now, Lord, 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 every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

## Blessing

The blessing of God be yours:  
the God who makes the darkness light,  
the Saviour who is light to the world,  
the Spirit who brings us peace,  
this night and always.

*All* **Amen.**