

Celtic Evening Prayer

Opening Acclamation and Responses

Leader: Peace on each one who comes in need,
All: Peace on each one who comes in joy.
Leader: Peace on each one who offers prayers,
All: Peace on each one who offers song.
Leader: Peace of the Maker, Peace of the Child,
All: Peace of the Spirit, the Triune One.

A moment of quiet

Prayer

Leader: Oh, God for your love for us, warm and brooding,
which has brought us to birth and opened our eyes
to the wonder and beauty of creation.

All: We give you thanks.

Leader: For your love for us, wind and freeing,
which has awakened us to the energy of creation;
to the sap that flows,
the blood that pulses,
the heart that sings.

All: We give you thanks.

Leader: For your love for us, compassionate and patient,
which has carried us through our pain,
wept beside us in our sin,
and waited with us in our confusion.

All: We give you thanks.

Leader: For your love for us, strong and challenging,
which has called us to risk for you,
asked for the best in us,
and shown us how to serve.

All: We give you thanks.

Leader: O God we come to celebrate
that your Holy Spirit is present deep within us,
and at the heart of all life.
Forgive us when we forget your gift of love
made known to us in our brother, Jesus,
and draw us into your presence.

Celtic Evening Prayer

The Word of God *(see lectionary insert)*

After the first reading, all sing or say together

The Song of Mary *Magnificat* *Luke 1:46-55*

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.
Glory to God, who is the Creator, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

After the second reading, all sing or say together

The Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis* *Luke 2:29-32*

**Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.**

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

Celtic Evening Prayer

Intercessions

We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray...

We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer...

We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight...

We bring to God silently, someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust...

We bring ourselves to God

That we might grow in generosity of spirit,

Clarity of mind,

And warmth of affection. Amen.

The Leader continues with one of the following Collects:

First Sunday in Lent: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan; Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Second Sunday in Lent: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Third Sunday in Lent: Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Fourth Sunday in Lent: Gracious God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Fifth Sunday in Lent: Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celtic Evening Prayer

All say together

The Lord's Prayer

All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts that we absorb from another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.

Source: A New Zealand Prayer Book.

The Leader continues

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **People:**
Amen.

All: In the busyness of this day
grant us a stillness of seeing, O God.
In the conflicting voices of our hearts
grant us calmness of hearing.
Let our seeing and hearing
our words and actions
be rooted in a silent certainty of your presence.
Let our passions for life
and the longings for justice that stir within us
be grounded in the experience of your stillness.
Let our lives be rooted in the ground of your peace, O God,
let us be rooted in the depths of your peace.

Celtic Evening Prayer

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Leader concludes with one of the following:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. . . *2 Corinthians 13:14*

or this

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen. Romans 15:13*

or this

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*