

Evening Prayer in the Canadian Tradition

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to you.
Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

or

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Reveal among us the light of your presence
so that we may behold your power and glory.

or

O God, be not far from us.
Come quickly to help us, O God.
The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
O come let us worship.

One of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

or

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

or

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

The Evening Hymn: 'O Light, Whose Splendour Thrills'

O Light, whose splendour thrills and gladdens
with radiance brighter than the sun,
pure gleam of God's unending glory,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;

as twilight hovers near at sunset,
and lamps are lit, and children nod,
in evening hymns we lift our voices
to Author, Spirit, Word: one God.

In all life's brilliant, timeless moments,
let faithful voices sing your praise,
O Word of God, our life-bestower,
whose glory lightens endless days.

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.

91 Qui habitat

1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,

* abides under the shadow of the Almighty.

2 He shall say to the Lord, "You are my refuge and my stronghold,

* my God in whom I put my trust."

3 He shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter

* and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with his pinions, and you shall find refuge under his wings;

* his faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,

* nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness,

* nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.

7 A thousand shall fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand,

* but it shall not come near you.

8 Your eyes have only to behold

* to see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge,

* and the Most High your habitation,

10 There shall no evil happen to you,

* neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you,

* to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands,

* lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder;

* you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

14 Because he is bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver him; * I will protect him,
because he knows my Name.

15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him;
* I am with him in trouble; I will rescue him and bring him to honor.
16 With long life will I satisfy him, * and show him my salvation.

Psalm 121 Levavi oculos

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills;
* from where is my help to come?
2 My help comes from the Lord,
* the maker of heaven and earth.
3 He will not let your foot be moved
* and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
* shall neither slumber nor sleep;
5 The Lord himself watches over you;
* the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,
* nor the moon by night.
7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
* it is he who shall keep you safe.
8 The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,
* from this time forth for evermore.

139 Domine, probasti

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;
* you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places
* and are acquainted with all my ways.
3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,
* but you, O Lord, know it altogether.
4 You press upon me behind and before
* and lay your hand upon me.
5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
* it is so high that I cannot attain to it.
6 Where can I go then from your Spirit?
* where can I flee from your presence?
7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;
* if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
8 If I take the wings of the morning
* and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
9 Even there your hand will lead me
* and your right hand hold me fast.
10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me,
* and the light around me turn to night,"
11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day;

* darkness and light to you are both alike.
12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;
* you knit me together in my mother's womb.
13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
* your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
14 My body was not hidden from you,
* while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book;
* they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
* how great is the sum of them!
17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
* to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Isaiah 60:1-3, 18,19

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
2 For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
3 Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

¹⁸ Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
devastation or destruction within your borders;
you shall call your walls Salvation,
and your gates Praise.

¹⁹ The sun shall no longer be
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give light to you by night;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

John 1:1-5,10-14,16

1 In the beginning was the Word, and
* the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God.

³All things came into being through him,
*and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being ⁴in him was life,
*and the life was the light of all people.

⁵The light shines in the darkness,
*and the darkness did not overcome it.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;
*yet the world did not know him.

¹¹He came to what was his own,
*and his own people did not accept him.

¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
*he gave power to become children of God,

¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh
*or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,

*the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

After the Psalm one of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

or

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.

1John 4:7, 8, 16, 18-21The word of the Lord.

God Is Love

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Matthew 5:3-10

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Or

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

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.

Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

For I am always with you;
you hold me by my hand.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

I will speak of all your works
in the gates of the city of Zion.

**Lord, you will guide me with your counsel
and afterwards receive me with glory.**

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

The Canticle

'The Song of Mary', 'A Song of Praise' or 'A Song of Christ's Glory' 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 forever.

Or

A Song of Praise (Revelation 4.11; 5.9b, 10)

You are worthy, our Lord and God, *
to receive glory and honour and power.
For you have created all things, *
and by your will they have their being.
You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, *
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation.
You have made them a priestly people serving our God, *
and they will reign with you on earth.

Or

A 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 our 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.

After the Canticle of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Or

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Or

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

Evening Prayer continues with the Litany.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY
The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Creator of all, open a path for your Word
to declare the mystery of Christ.

Turn now, O God of hosts;
behold and tend the vine you have planted.

May your people rejoice and sing,
and your ministers be clothed with salvation.

May they stand and feed your flock
in the strength of your name.

Keep from trouble all those who trust in you
and forget not the poor forever.
Have mercy upon us,
as we have put our hope in you.

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud.
Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- the social services;
- all who work in the criminal justice system;
- victims and perpetrators of crime;
- the work of aid agencies throughout the world;
- those living in poverty or under oppression.

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

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labour and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Or

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evening Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

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 God, who has called us out of darkness into the marvellous light of Christ, bless us and fill us with peace. **Amen.**