



Evening Prayer

A Simplified Form

Opening

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.

Let your light scatter the darkness
and illumine your church.

Psalmody

The psalmody may begin with Psalm 121 (below), 141, or another psalm appropriate for morning. Psalms indicated in the [Daily Lectionary](#) may be used instead of or in addition to the psalms mentioned here.

¹I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?

²My help comes | from the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

⁵the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.

A time of silence follows.

A hymn may follow.

Readings

One or more readings for each day may be selected from the [Daily Lectionary](#) or another resource. The reading of scripture may be followed by silence for reflection.

The reflection may conclude with these or similar words.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.

Gospel Canticle

The song of Mary may be sung or said.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor 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 forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Prayers

Various intercessions may be spoken. The following prayers are especially appropriate for evening.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Amen.

or

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

Amen.

or

Dear Jesus, as a hen covers her chicks with her wings to keep them safe, protect us this night under your golden wings; for your mercy's sake.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 forever. Amen.**

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Additional materials for daily prayer are available in [Evangelical Lutheran Worship](#) (pp. 295-331) and may supplement this simple order.

Daily Lectionary readings may be found at ELCA.org/Lectionary or at [Evangelical Lutheran Worship pp. 1121-1153](#).

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