

Book of Common Prayer 1960

Church of India – CIPBC

Memorial Church Anglican Whitefield

THE ORDER FOR VESPERS OR EVENSONG (EVENING PRAYER)

GENERAL RUBRICS

1. All Priests and Deacons are to say daily Morning and Evening Prayer, either publicly or privately, not being hindered by sickness or some other urgent cause.
2. And the Parish Priest not being reasonably hindered, shall say publicly in church Morning and Evening Prayer, or other Form of daily service authorized by the Episcopal Synod; and he shall cause a bell to be tolled a convenient time before he begins, that the people may come to hear God's Word, and to pray with him.
3. On weekdays, and on Sundays when another Service from the Prayer Book follows immediately, the Service may begin with the versicle, O Lord, open thou our lips. And when the Lord's Supper follows immediately, all may be omitted after the second Canticle.

4. The First and Second Lessons shall be read as appointed by provincial authority. The Reader should so stand and turn himself, that he may best be heard by all such as are present.
5. Before every Lesson the Reader shall say first the name of the Book, next the number of the Chapter, and then, if need be, of the verse, at which the Lesson begins. And after every Lesson, Here endeth the First, or the Second, Lesson.
6. A Hymn may be sung before the Benedictus in Morning Prayer, or the Magnificat in Evening Prayer. A Hymn or Anthem may be sung after the Collects. When a Sermon is preached, a Hymn may be sung before the Sermon. Between the Sermon and the Blessing another Hymn may be sung, which on Festival Days may be sung in procession.

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES TO EVENING PRAYER

After Incensing the Sanctuary, the Priest shall read some one or more of these sentences that follow:

Of Penitence.

I WILL arise, and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. St. Luke 15.18,19

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive our- selves, and the truth is not in us: but, if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 St. John 1. 8,9

To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him: neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws which he set before us. Daniel 9. 9, 10

Enter not into judgement with thy servant, O Lord; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. Psalm 143. 2

Of Worship. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. St John 4. 24

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness: let the whole earth stand in awe of him. Psalm 96. 9

Advent.

Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. St Matthew 3. 2

The night is far spent, and the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Romans 13. 12

Christmas.

Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people: for unto you is born in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. St Luke 2.10, 11

Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. St. John 4.9

Epiphany.

From the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name is great among the nations; and in every place incense is offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name is great among the nations, saith the Lord. Malachi 1. 11

The Lord declared his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly showed in the sight of the heathen. Psalm 98.
2

Lent.

Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Joel 2. 13

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Psalm 51.
17

Passiontide.

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow. Lamentations 1. 12

Good Friday.

God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5. 8

Easter Even.

Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him; and he shall give thee thy heart's desire.
Psalm 37.7, 4

Easter.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
1 St Peter 1. 3

Ascension Day.

Seeing that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.
Hebrews 4. 14, 16

Whitsunday.

The love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us.
Romans 5. 5

Trinity.

God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God and God in him. 1 St John 4. 16

All Saints.

Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12. 1, 2

Saints' Days.

The righteous shall be had in ever- lasting remembrance; the memory of the just is blessed.
Psalm 112. 6. Proverbs 10. 7

The New Year or any Anniversary.

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint. Isaiah 40. 31

Harvest.

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof. Psalm 24. 1

Time of Trouble.

God is our hope and strength: a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46. 1

National.

O let the nations rejoice and be glad: for thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Psalm 67. 4

VESPERS - EVENING PRAYER

The Priest, having read one or more of the Introductory Sentences, shall turn to the people, and say the Exhortation in the form following:

DEARLY beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; [and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.] Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure

heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying with me;

Or else the Minister may omit any Exhortation and say:

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

And thereupon silence shall be kept for a space, all kneeling.

Then shall follow the General Confession, to be said by the whole congregation together with the Minister, all kneeling.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

Or else this shorter Confession and Prayer for Forgiveness:

WE confess to God Almighty, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, Through our own grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.

ALMIGHTY God, have mercy upon us, Forgive us all our sins, Deliver us from all evil, Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, And bring us to everlasting life; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If a Priest be present, he shall stand, face the Congregation and pronounce the Absolution, or Remission of sins, the people still kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins: He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for true repentance,

amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Then may follow the Lord's Prayer.
All kneeling, the Minister shall say, or sing:*

LORD, open thou our lips;

Answer. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Minister. O God, make speed to save us;

Answer. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Here, all standing up, the Minister shall continue,

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;

Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Minister. Praise ye the Lord;

Answer. The Lord's name be praised.

*Then shall follow the Psalms in order as they are appointed. Then shall be read distinctly the First Lesson, taken out of the Old Testament or Apocrypha. And after that the Magnificat (or the Song of the Blessed Virgin Mary), as follows:
Or this shorter Absolution,*

MAGNIFICAT

St. Luke 1. 46

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, * and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

2 For he hath regarded*the lowliness of his handmaiden.

3 For behold, from henceforth*all generations shall call me blessed.

4 For he that is mighty hath magnified me; * and holy is his name.

5 And his mercy is on them that fear him * throughout all generations.

6 He hath showed strength with his arm; * he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

7 He hath put down the mighty from their seat, * and hath exalted the humble and meek.

8 He hath filled the hungry with good things;* and the rich he hath sent empty away.

9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; * as he promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

*Then shall be read in like manner the Second Lesson,
taken out of the New Testament.
And after that, Nunc Dimittis (or the Song of Simeon), as
follows:*

**NUNC DIMITTIS
St Luke 2. 29**

LORD now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, * according to thy word.

2. For mine eyes have seen * thy salvation,

3. Which thou hast prepared * before the face of all people;

4. To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, * and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, * and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, * world without end. Amen.

Then shall be sung or said The Apostles' Creed by the Minister and people, standing: except that it may be omitted, if in place of it the Athanasian Creed, or the latter part thereof, be sung or said.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried, He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.

Minister. The Lord be with you;

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

Then shall be said these Prayers, all devoutly kneeling:

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Then the Minister and people shall say the Lord's Prayer.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; In earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Then the Minister, standing up, shall say,

Minister. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Answer. And grant us thy salvation.

Minister. Endue thy ministers with righteousness;

Answer. And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister. O Lord, save thy people;

Answer. And bless thine inheritance.

Minister. O Lord, be gracious unto our land;

Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister. Give peace in our time, O Lord;

Answer. For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

Minister. O God, make clean our hearts within us;

Answer. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

*Then shall be said the Collect or Collects of the Day,
and after that the Collect for Peace, and the Collect for
Aid against all Perils; as follows.*

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Here may follow a Hymn or Anthem be sung and the offering and alms be collected. Following prayer be said by the Priest alone

BLESSED be thou, O Lord God, for ever and ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and

in the earth is thine: thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all: both riches and honour come of thee, and of thine own do we give unto thee.

Amen.

THE CONCLUSION TO MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

Morning and Evening Prayer should conclude with one of the following endings. Before the Conclusion the Priest may at his discretion read one or more of the Occasional Prayers and Thanksgivings, or the Short Litany; or else offer prayer in his own words, subject to any direction which the Bishop may give. The Prayers may be said after a Sermon, if desired.

I

A Prayer of St Chrysostom

ALMIGHTY God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them: granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Amen.

2 Corinthians 13

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

Amen.

Or, the latter alone may be said.

II

TO God the Father, who loved us, and made us accepted in the Beloved: To God the Son, who loved us, and loosed us from our sins by his own blood: To God the Holy Spirit, who sheddeth the love of God abroad in our hearts; To the one true God be all love and all glory for time and for eternity.

Amen.

III

NOW unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, to him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

IV

NOW unto him that is able to keep us from falling and to

present us faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy; to the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.

Amen.

V

NOW unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

VI

UNTO him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.

Amen.

VII

Minister. The Lord be with you;

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Minister. Let us bless the Lord;

Answer. Thanks be to God.

If there be no Sermon, the Priest shall add

Let us depart in peace;

Answer. In the name of the Lord. Amen.

*Here a Sermon may be preached and the Congregation
be seated*

*Thereafter Priest may dismiss the people with one of
these blessings.*

THE blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

GOD the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, the keep you, now and evermore.

Amen.

UNTO God's gracious mercy and protection, we commit you. The Lord bless you, and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and evermore.

Amen.

When a Priest is not present, the following may be said:

THE Almighty and merciful God bless us and keep us this day (night) and for evermore. Amen.