

# Evening Service

## The Blessing of the Light

*The candles are lit.*

Minister     You, O Lord, are my lamp;  
                  you turn our darkness into light.

Minister     The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.  
**All**           **And also with you.**

Minister     Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All**           **Who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever!  
You led your people to freedom  
by a pillar of cloud by day and  
a pillar of fire by night.  
May we who walk in the light of your presence  
acclaim your Christ, rising victorious,  
as he banishes all darkness from our hearts and minds,  
and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All**           **Blessed be God for ever!**

*Verses from Psalm 141*

**All**           **Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you, come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.  
Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.

**All**           **Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness.  
But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God,  
in you I take refuge;  
do not leave me defenceless.

**All**            **Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

**The Psalm**

*One of these psalms is said.*

Psalm 63

- 1            O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water;
- 2            Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3            For your loving-kindness is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4            So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.
- 5            My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips.
- 6            When I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7            For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8            My soul clings to you,  
your right hand holds me fast.

*Silence is kept.*

Minister    Faithful God,  
rescue us from our faithlessness  
that we may fulfil our vows to you  
and ever call on your holy Name. **Amen.**

Psalm 121

- 1 I will 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 to 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 ever more.

*Silence is kept.*

Minister Lord, ever watchful and faithful,  
we look to you to be our defence  
and we lift up our hearts to know your help;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said unto me,  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord'.
- 2 Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself.
- 4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgement,  
the thrones of the house of David.

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem;  
'May they prosper that love you.
- 7 'Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 'For my family and companions' sake  
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 'Because of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek to do you good'.

*Silence is kept*

Minister God of our joy and gladness, hear our prayer for the peace of this world  
and bring us at last, with all our companions in faith, to the peace of that  
city where  
you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and to all eternity. **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

## New Testament Canticle

**Refrain By the river stood the tree of life,  
with healing for all the nations.**

- 1 I saw no temple in the city,  
for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty  
and the Lamb.
- 2 And the city has no need of our sun or moon  
to shine upon it,  
for the glory of God is its light,  
and its lamp is the Lamb.
- 3 By its light the nations shall walk,  
and the rulers of the earth  
shall bring their glory.
- 4 Its gates shall never be shut by day,  
nor shall there be any night;  
they shall bring into it  
the glory and honour of the nations.

5 I saw the river of the water of life,  
bright as crystal,  
flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

6 And either side of the river stood the tree of life,  
yielding its fruit each month,  
and the leaves of the tree  
were for the healing of the nations.

7 The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be there,  
and his servants shall worship him;  
and they shall see God's face  
and his name shall be on their foreheads.

**To the One who sits on the throne  
and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honour and glory and might,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Refrain By the river stood the tree of life,  
with healing for all the nations.**

## New Testament Reading

### Responsory

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
the Lord is the strength of my life.  
**All The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
**All The Lord is the strength of my life.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**All The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

## Gospel Canticle: The Magnificat

**Refrain Yours is the day, O Lord, and yours is the night;  
let Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
abide in our hearts for ever.**

- 1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
- 2 For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;  
from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- 3 The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.
- 4 He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.
- 5 He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
- 6 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has lifted up the lowly.
- 7 He has filled the hungry with good things  
and the rich he has sent away empty.
- 8 He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of his mercy.
- 9 The promise he made to our forebears:  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Refrain** Yours is the day, O Lord, and yours is the night;  
let Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
abide in our hearts for ever.

## Address

*A meditation or homily may be offered. Silence is kept.*

## The Prayers

*The Kyries may be used as responses to intercession.*

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

## The Collect of the Day

### The Collect for Those in Need

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who wake, or watch or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick,  
give rest to the weary,  
sustain the dying, calm the suffering,  
and pity the distressed;  
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray as our Redeemer has taught us:

**All**            **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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

### The Blessing

**All**            **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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

*The candles are extinguished. The people depart.*