

# *Evening Prayer for Lent<sup>1</sup>*

## **Penitence**

Seek the Lord while he may be found,

**All call upon him while he is near.**

Let the wicked abandon their ways

**All and the unrighteous their thoughts.**

Turn back to the Lord, who will have mercy;

**All to our God who will richly pardon.**

*cf Isaiah 55*

*A time of silence and self-examination may be kept.*

**All Lord God,**

**we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore us to the joy of your salvation,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*cf Psalm 51*

**Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies

cleanse *us* from *our* sins,

and restore *us* in his image

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<sup>1</sup> Based on *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, Daily Prayer*. London: Church House Publishing, 2005.

to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

Blessed be the Lord,

**All who has heard the voice of our prayer.**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

**All and in our song will we praise our God.**

## **Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.

**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,

**All according to your judgement give us life.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,  
that freed from the misery of sin and shame  
we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

### *The Opening Prayer*

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

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.

**All Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

### *Psalm(s)*

*Each psalm or group of psalms may end with*

**All 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.**

### *Scripture Reading*

*One or more readings appointed for the day are read.*

*The reading(s) may be followed by a reflection.*

### *Gospel Canticle*

*The Magnificat (The Song of Mary):*

**All Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for our God will richly pardon.**

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

*Luke 1.46–55*

**All** **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.**

**All** **Come, let us return to the Lord,**  
**for our God will richly pardon.**

## **Prayers**

In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father

and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people,  
that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace,  
we pray to you, O Lord: *R*

For candidates for baptism and confirmation,  
that they may live by every word that proceeds from your mouth,  
we pray to you, O Lord: *R*

For the leaders of the nations,  
that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth,  
we pray to you, O Lord: *R*

For the needy,  
that they may not be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor be taken away,  
we pray to you, O Lord: *R*

For the sick in body, mind and spirit,  
that they may know your power to heal,  
we pray to you, O Lord: *R*

For the poor in spirit,  
that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven  
and see you face to face,  
we pray to you, O Lord: *R*

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.*

### *The Collect*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

Trusting in the compassion of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

## **The Conclusion**

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love.

**All Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**