###### Evening Prayer

**Opening Sentence**

God is Spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and in truth. *John 4:24*

**Confession**

*The Officiant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*After a period of silence, the People say in unison*

God of all mercy,  
we confess that we have sinned against you,

opposing your will in our lives.  
We have denied your goodness in each other,  
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.

We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done,  
and the evil done on our behalf.

Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,

that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen**.

*Officiant* O God, be not far from us.  
*People* **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

*All*  **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is**

**now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*Except in Lent add* **Alleluia.**

**Psalm 141:1-3,8ab** *Domine, clamavi*

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.

Set a watch before my mouth, O LORD, and guard the door of my lips; \*

let not my heart incline to any evil thing.

My eyes are turned to you, Lord GOD; \*

in you I take refuge.

**The Lessons**

*After each reading, a canticle is said in unison.*

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| **A Song of Ezekiel**  *Ezekiel 36:24-28*  I will take you from among all nations; \* and gather you from all lands to bring you home.  I will sprinkle clean water upon you; \* and purify you from false gods and uncleanness.  A new heart I will give you \* and a new spirit put within you.  I will take the stone heart from your chest \*  and give you a heart of flesh.  I will help you walk in my laws \* and cherish my commandments and do them.  You shall be my people, \*  and I will be your God. | **A Song of Christ’s Goodness** *Anselm of Canterbury*  Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;\* you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.  Often you weep over our sins and our pride,\* tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.  You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,\* in sickness you nurse us, with pure milk you feed us.  Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;\* by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.  Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;\* through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.  Your warmth gives life to the dead,\* your touch makes sinners righteous.  Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;\* in your love and tenderness, remake us.  In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness,\* for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us. |

**The Apostles’ Creed** *(said in unison)*

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**.

**The Prayers**

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(said in unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
    thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*(said responsively)*

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| O:  Show us your mercy, O Lord; | P: **And grant us your salvation.** |
| O:  Clothe your ministers with righteousness; | P: **Let your people sing with joy.** |
| O: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; | P: **For only in you can we live in safety.** |
| O: Lord, keep this nation under your care; | P: **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.** |
| O: Let your way be known upon earth; | P:  **Your saving health among all nations**. |
| O: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten; | P: **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.** |
| O: Create in us clean hearts, O God; | P: **And sustain us by your Holy Spirit.** |

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen***. Prayer for Protection*

Lord it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done. Let it be.

The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen**. *Night Prayer from New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*

**Prayer of St. Chrysostom** *(said in unison)* Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen***.*

**Concluding Sentence**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

*Service adapted from Enriching Our Worship prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music 1997*.