

ADVENT EVENING PRAYER

Opening Sentence

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One. *Baruch 5:5*

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.**

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*

Behold now, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, *
you that stand by night in the house of the LORD.

Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the LORD; *
the LORD who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

The First Lessons of the Day...(Year One)

After each reading, a canticle is said in unison.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *
for you 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 help of your servant Israel, * for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears, * to Abraham and his children for ever.

The Second Lesson of the Day

The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *

you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, * born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets you promised of old to save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us, To show mercy to our forebears, *
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship you without fear, *
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
To give God's people knowledge of salvation * by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.
People **And listen to our prayer.**
Officiant Let us pray.

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

Collects

Gracious God, our creator, healer, and redeemer, give skill, sympathy, and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for cures to disease. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Come, O come Emmanuel, you are the way, the truth and the life; Come, living Savior, come to your world which waits for you. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Gracious God, you have given us much today; grant us also a thankful spirit. Into your hands we commend ourselves and those we love. Be with us still, and when we take our rest, renew us for the day ahead that all we do may be in the service of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Concluding Sentence

The angels of God guard us through the night and quieten the powers of darkness. The Spirit of God be our guide to lead us to peace and to glory. It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread of anxiety. For those beloved of God are given gifts even while they sleep.

Service adapted from Enriching Our Worship prepared by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music 1997, with prayers added from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer.