

**Australian Catholic Bishops Conference
Liturgical and Prayer Resources for Days of
Fasting and Reparation
following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse
Lent 2018**

EVENING PRAYER

INTRODUCTION

(All stand)

Presider: O God, come to our aid. *(All make the sign of the cross)*

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

PROCLAMATION OF LIGHT

(The paschal candle is lit)

Presider: Light and peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Evening Hymn: O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

1. O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ
in you the Father's glory shone.
Immortal, holy, blest is he,
and blest are you, his only Son.
2. Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son and Spirit: God
who dwells in the eternal light.
3. Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth
and in the highest heav'n adored.

Text: *Phos hilaron*, Greek 4th cent., trans. Francis Bland Tucker, 1895-1984;
© The Church Pension Fund.
Tune: JESU DULCIS MEMORIA or alt. 8.8.8.8 tune

EVENING THANKSGIVING

Presider: Let us give thanks to God our Father
always and for everything.

All: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cantor/
Reader:

Praise be the Lord our God,
ruler of the universe,
who led our ancestors in the faith
by a pillar of cloud by day
and a pillar of fire by night
and prepared a lamp for his Anointed.
Light up our darkness, O God, by the light of your Christ;
may his word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path,
for you are full of loving kindness for your whole creation
and we, your creatures, glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

All: Amen.

PSALMODY

(All sit)

Psalm 140 (Incense Psalm)

Presider: Let us pray for pardon and peace,
and for protection throughout the coming night.

Antiphon: Like burning incense, O Lord, let my prayer rise up to you.

I have called to you, Lord; hasten to help me!
Hear my voice when I cry to you.
Let my prayer arise before you like incense,
the raising of my hands like an evening oblation.

*Set, O Lord, a guard over my mouth;
keep watch, O Lord, at the door of my lips!
Do not turn my heart to things that are wrong,
to evil deeds with men who are sinners.*

Never allow me to share in their feasting.
If a good man strikes or reproves me it is kindness;
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

*Their princes were thrown down by the side of the rock:
then they understood that my words were kind.
As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.*

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned:
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe:
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

*Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
whilst I pursue my way unharmed.
Give praise to the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit
both now and for ages unending. Amen.*

Antiphon: Like burning incense, O Lord, let my prayer rise up to you.

Silence

Psalm 50:3-6.12-14

(All sit)

Antiphon: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness
in your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

*My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.*

A pure heart create for me, O God
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

*Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise*

Give praise to the Father Almighty,
to his Son, Jesus Christ the Lord,
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts,
both now and for ever. Amen.

Antiphon: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Silence

Canticle 1 Peter 2: 21-24

(All sit)

Antiphon: God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all.

Christ suffered for you,
leaving you an example,
that you should follow in his steps.

*He committed no sin,
no guile was found on his lips.
When he was reviled, he did not revile in return.*

When he suffered, he did not threaten:
but he trusted to him who judges justly.

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.*

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.

Antiphon: God did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all.

Silence

SCRIPTURE READING

Choose from the following examples or other appropriate readings. [Relevant refs to Australian Lectionary (1981).]

Isaiah 49:8-15	<i>I have given you as covenant of the people to establish the land. (Lect, Vol. I, p. 288)</i>
Isaiah 59:6b-8, 15-18	<i>The Lord is appalled by evil and injustice.</i>
Joel 2:12-18	<i>Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn. (Lect, Vol. III, p. 703)</i>
Job 3:1-26	<i>Lamentation of Job.</i>
Lamentations 3:1-24	<i>I am one who knows affliction.</i>
Lamentations 3:49-59	<i>When I called, you came to my aid.</i>
Micah 4:1-4	<i>There will be no more training for war. (Lect, Vol. III, p. 615)</i>

SHORT RESPONSORY

Cantor/s: Hear us Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.
All: Hear us Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.

Cantor/s: Listen, Christ, to the prayers of those who cry to you.
All: for we have sinned against you.

Cantor/s: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
All: Hear us Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.

GOSPEL CANTICLE – Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)

*(During the Magnificat,
all make the sign of the cross.
The altar may be incensed,
and then also the priest and people.)*

Antiphon: Stay with us Lord, for evening draws near, and daylight is fading, alleluia.

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

Antiphon: Stay with us Lord, for evening draws near, and daylight is fading, alleluia.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: We place our prayers of petition before God, mindful of our sinfulness but confident in the Lord's mercy.

Reader: We pray for all victims of sexual abuse: that they may experience truth, justice and healing in their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all families of victims of sexual abuse: that they may be comforted by the support of the Church and all your people.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our communities where sexual abuse has occurred: that all those in positions of responsibility in relation to children will accord them the honour and respect to which they are entitled.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for forgiveness for the sins committed by members of the Church in the sexual abuse of children.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for forgiveness for the sins committed by Church authorities who covered up the abuses and ignored the suffering of victims.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for all members of society: that they will honour human sexuality and treat all people with respect and decency.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Presider: Gracious and loving God, source of all truth, justice and healing, we implore you to hear the prayers we offer and to look favourably on the pleas of your people. We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us unite all our prayers in the prayer that Jesus gave us:

All: Our Father . . .

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Presider: Lord God, strength of those who hope in you,
support us in our fervent prayer
for all victims of sexual abuse and their families.
Because we are weak and can do nothing without you,
grant us always the help of your grace
so that, in fulfilling your commandments,
we may please you in all we desire
and do to help those in need of our care.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Presider: Before we conclude, let us take a moment to offer each other a sign of peace.

BLESSING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Presider: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God

OR *(when lead by a lay person)*

May God bless and keep us.

May God's face shine on us.

May God be kind to us and give us peace.

All: Amen.

Sources

The Divine Office (London & Glasgow: Collins, Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, and Dublin: Talbot, 1974); *The Psalms: A New Translation - Singing Version* (London: Collins, 1963); *Worship: The Liturgy of the Hours – Leader’s Edition* (Chicago: GIA, 1989). Musical settings of the responses, psalms, canticles and hymns can be located in *Catholic Worship Book* (Sydney: E. J. Dwyer & London: Collins Liturgical, 1985); *Gather Australia* (Chicago: GIA/Melbourne: NLMC Publications 1995), *Catholic Worship Book II* (Melbourne: Morning Star Publishing, 2016) or other sources. Thanks to staff at the National Office for Liturgy, Bishops Commission for Liturgy and Bishops Commission for Church Ministry in the compilation of this prayer.

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