

Prayers. A litany, or other suitable devotions, including **the Lord's Prayer.**

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.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening. As you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation, and the strength of our life. To you be glory for endless ages. *Amen.*

Blessing or Dismissal, or both. The Peace may then be exchanged.

The Lord bless us and keep us. *Amen.*
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us. *Amen.*
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us
and give us peace. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

An Order for Family Devotions with the Advent Wreath

Around the dinner table, before bedtime, or at another appropriate time, the family gathers in the room where the unlit Advent Wreath is placed. The Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;
People His mercy endures for ever.

One of the following, or some other Short Lesson of Scripture may then be read.

A shoot shall come out of from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
Isaiah 11:1

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
cf. Isaiah 40:3-5

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
Isaiah 40:53

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.
cf. 1 Corinthians 4:5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.
Philippians 4:4-5

The Officiant then says the Prayer for Light, using any one of the following or some other suitable prayer, first saying

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down: Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Advent

Read the Collect for the Week (found in Sunday's Bulletin or BCP 211-212)

The candles at the Altar are now lighted, as are other candles and lamps as may be convenient.

During the candle-lighting, an appropriate anthem or psalm may be sung, or silence kept.

The following hymn, or a metrical version of it, or some other hymn, is then sung or said

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

*The service may then continue in any of the following ways:
With Evening Prayer, beginning with the Psalms (BCP, 118f.); or with some other
Office or Devotion.*

Or, it may be followed by a meal or other activity, in which case Phos hilaron may be followed by the Lord's Prayer and a grace or blessing;

Or, it may continue as a complete evening Office—using the lectionary readings listed in the weekly devotions—with the following elements:

Selection from the Psalter. Silence, or a suitable Collect, or both, may follow the Psalmody.

Bible Reading(s). A brief silence and/or the daily reflection for Advent may follow the Reading.

Canticle. The Magnificat or other canticle, or some other hymn of praise may follow each reading, if more than one.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and 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 the rich he has sent 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 to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.