

The Order for Daily Morning Prayer

(From The Book of Common Prayer, 1928, and in contemporary language)

Introduction

CHRISTIANS who wish to pray daily in an ordered way are not always sure how to do so, and so they look for advice. There is perhaps no better model to follow than that provided by the ancient services of Morning and Evening Prayer, which, though communal in intention, can be easily adapted to family and personal use. In The Book of Common Prayer there is a service to be used on each morning and a further service at each evening of the year. These are similar in shape but not identical in content. Further, on Sundays and Holy Days, Morning Prayer is often followed by The Order for Holy Communion—and sometimes also by The Litany. The practice and discipline of Morning and Evening Prayer, not only fit into a basic rhythm of nature, but was also what occurred publicly in the Early Church before the development of monasticism and the multiplication of daily services within this movement. In the sixteenth century, at the Protestant Reformation, the Church of England, along with other European national Churches, abandoned the medieval monastic model of many daily services. It returned to the discipline of two services daily, making these available for all Christians, clergy and laity alike, and requiring the clergy to use them in church, after ringing the bell.

The content of both Morning and Evening Prayer is primarily portions of the Christian Bible. There are readings from the Old and New Testaments, the chanting/praying of Psalms from the Psalter, the use of Canticles taken from the Bible, and the offering of prayers, whose very language is often a medley of Biblical phrases. Of course, all this occurs within a structure, which is intended to make the praise of the Lord and the offering of prayer to him follow a path that is in accord with the experience of the centuries, in terms of relating to God in a humble, penitent manner. In order to offer Morning Prayer to the Father through the Son and with the Holy Spirit, the Minister requires, not only the text of the Service itself, but also a Bible and a Lectionary (Table of Daily Readings). In reality, this means that he needs The Book of Common Prayer and the Bible (the ESV or RSV for this service here).

An examination of the content of the daily service reveals that it can begin at one of two points. The first is at the beginning, where the reading of Scripture sentences is a call to prepare for worshipping the Lord in spirit and in truth. When Morning Prayer is a primary service of the day then obviously this is the place to begin, so that the whole scope of the content is used to full effect for human salvation and for the glory of God. However, if the Service is to be followed by the Litany and/or by The Order for Holy Communion then it can begin at the prayer, “O Lord, open thou our lips.” In our time it is very important that a translation of the Psalter is used in Morning and Evening Prayer that allows the people of God to pray the Psalms daily with, in, and through Jesus Christ. The Psalter was the primary Prayer Book of Jesus himself and became the first Prayer Book of the Church of God. And the Church prayed it as the Body of Christ, together with its Lord. Thus Psalm 1 became the declaration of this praying with, in and through Jesus in His Body, for it begins in a literal translation “Blessed is the Man” where “the Man” here and throughout the Psalter is the Lord Jesus himself. Modern versions lose this connection when they seek to be inclusive (“happy is the one” or “happy are they”), and by so doing, they make it very difficult, if not impossible, to pray the Psalter as the Church has done for centuries.

The Order for Daily Morning Prayer

¶ *The Minister shall begin the Morning Prayer by reading one or more of the following Sentences of Scripture.*

¶ *On any day, except a Day of Fasting or Abstinence, or on any day when the Litany or Holy Communion is immediately to follow, the Minister may, at his discretion, pass at once from the Sentences to the Lord's Prayer, first saying, The Lord be with you. Answer. And with your spirit. Minister. Let us pray.*

¶ *And Note. That when the Confession and Absolution are omitted, the Minister may, after the Sentences, pass to the Versicles, Open our Lips, O Lord, etc., in which case the Lord's Prayer shall be said with the other prayers, immediately after The Lord be with you, etc., and before the Versicles and Responses which follow, or, in the Litany, as there appointed.*

THE Lord is in His holy temple, let all the earth keep silence before Him. Hab. 2:20.

I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord! Psalm 122:1.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:4.

Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling! Psalm 43: 3.

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy. I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite. Isaiah 57:5.

The hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship Him. John 4:23.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Phil.1:2.

Advent. Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matt. 3:2.

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:3.

Christmas. Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2: 10-11.

Epiphany. From the rising of the sun to its setting, My name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to My name, and a pure offering. For My name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. Mal. 1:11.

Awake, Awake, put on your strength, O Zion; put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem. Isaiah 52:1.

Lent. Tear your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster. Joel 2:3.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; and a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51:17.

I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Luke 15: 18-19.

Good Friday. Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted. Lam. 1:12.

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace. Eph. 1:7.

Easter. He is risen from the dead. The Lord has risen indeed. Luke 24:34.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24.

Ascension. Since we have a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:14,16.

Whitsunday. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8.

Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father! Gal. 4:6.

Trinity Sunday. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come. Rev.4:8.

Thanksgiving. Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Prov. 3: 9-10.

The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens. By His knowledge the deeps broke open, and the clouds drop down the dew. Prov. 3: 19-20.

¶ *Then the Minister shall say,*

BROTHERS and Sisters, the Holy Scripture urges us in various places to acknowledge and confess our many sins and wickedness; and that we should not try to hide them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father, but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; so that we may obtain forgiveness of them by His infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God, we ought to do so especially when we assemble and come together to give thanks for the great blessings that we have received at His hands, to offer the praise that is due to Him, to hear His most holy Word, and to ask Him to supply our needs of body and soul. Wherefore, I urge you all to approach the throne of heavenly grace with me, humbly and with pure intent, saying—

¶ *Or he shall say*

LET us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A General Confession

¶ To be said by the whole Congregation together with the Minister, all kneeling.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the evil inclinations and desires of our own hearts. We have broken Your holy laws. We have left undone what we ought to have done, and we have done what we ought not to have done. And thus there is no wholeness within us. Lord, have mercy on us, pitiful sinners. Spare those who confess their sins. Restore those who truly repent, even as You have promised to mankind through Jesus Christ our Lord. And grant, merciful Father, for His sake, that we may live from now onwards a godly, righteous, and serious life, to the glory of Your holy Name. Amen.

The Declaration of Absolution, or Forgiveness of Sins.

¶ To be made by the Priest alone, standing, as the People continue to kneel.

¶ But Note. That the Priest, at his discretion, may use, instead of what follows, the Absolution from the Holy Communion.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their sinfulness and live. He has commanded and authorized His Ministers to assure His people that they will receive absolution and forgiveness when they repent of their sins. Thus God, the Father, pardons and forgives all who truly repent and sincerely believe His holy gospel.

Therefore, let us ask Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, so that what we do now may please him, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy and that finally we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ Then the Minister shall kneel and say the Lord's Prayer. The People, kneeling, shall say it with him, both here and in any other place that it is used in Divine Service.

OUR Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we also forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

¶ Then he shall say,

Lord, open our lips.

Answer. And we shall declare Your praise.

¶ Here all standing up, the Minister shall say,

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Minister. Let us praise the Lord.

Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

¶ *Then shall be said or sung the following Canticle, except on those days when other Canticles are appointed; and except also that Psalm 95 may be used in this place.*

¶ *But Note that on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday the Venite may be omitted.*

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¶ *On the days named below, immediately before the Venite may be sung or said,*

¶ *On the Sundays in Advent. Our King and Saviour draws near * O come, let us adore Him.*

¶ *On Christmas Day and until the Epiphany. Alleluia. Unto us a child is born * O come, let us adore Him, Alleluia.*

¶ *On the Epiphany and seven days after, and on the Feast of the Transfiguration. The Lord has revealed His glory * O come let us adore Him.*

¶ *On Monday in Easter week and until Ascension Day. Alleluia. The Lord is risen from the dead * O come, let us adore Him. Alleluia.*

¶ *On Ascension Day and until Whitsunday. Alleluia. Christ the Lord ascends into heaven * O come, let us adore Him.*

¶ *On Whitsunday and six days after. Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord fills the world * O come, let us adore Him.*

¶ *On Trinity Sunday. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God * O come, let us adore Him.*

¶ *On the Purification and the Annunciation. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us * O come let us adore Him.*

¶ *On other Festivals for which a proper Epistle and Gospel are provided. The Lord is glorious in His saints * O come let us adore Him.*

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Venite, exultemus Domino

COME, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the God of our salvation. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.

For the Lord is a great God; and a great King above all gods.

In His hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.

The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker!

For He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture; and the sheep of His hand.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before Him all the earth.

For He comes to judge the earth; He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

¶ *Then shall follow a portion of the Psalms, according to the Use of this Church. And at the end of every Psalm, and also at the end of the Venite, Benedictus es, Benedictus, Jubilate, may be, and at the end of the whole portion, or selection from the Psalter, shall be said or sung the Gloria Patri:*

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.

¶ Then shall be read the First Lesson, according to the Lectionary. And Note that before every Lesson, the Minister shall say, Here begins such a Chapter (or verse of such a Chapter) of such a Book; and after every Lesson, Here ends the First (or the Second) Lesson.

¶ Here shall be said or sung the following Hymn.

¶ But Note that on any day when the Holy Communion is immediately to follow, the Minister, at his discretion, after any one of the following Canticles of Morning Prayer has been said or sung, may pass at once to the Communion Service.

Te Deum Laudamus

WE praise You, God; we acknowledge You to be the Lord.
All creation worships You, the eternal Father.
To You all angels and all the powers of heaven loudly cry.
To You cherubim and seraphim continually sing:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of all power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your Glory.
The glorious company of the apostles praise You.
The noble fellowship of the prophets praise You.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise You.
The holy Church throughout the world acclaim You;
The Father of Majesty unbounded;
Your adorable, true, and only Son;
And the Holy Spirit, the Counselor.

YOU are the King of Glory, Christ.
You are the eternal Son of the Father.
When You became man to set us free,
You humbled Yourself to be born of a Virgin.
When You had overcome the sting of death,
You opened the Kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You sit in glory at the right hand of God, the Father.
We believe that You will come again to be our Judge.
Come then, Lord, we pray, and help Your servants,
Whom You have redeemed with Your precious blood.
Bring us to be united with Your saints in everlasting glory.

LORD, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.
Govern and uphold them now and always.
Day by day we magnify You,
And we worship Your Name always, for ever and ever.
Lord, keep us this day from all sin.
Lord, have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
Lord, let Your mercy rest upon us, for we put our trust in You.
Lord, I have trusted in You; let me never be eternally abandoned.

¶ Or this Canticle.
Benedictus es, Domine.

BLESSED are You, Lord God of our fathers: to be praised and highly exalted for ever.
Blessed is Your glorious holy Name: to be praised and highly exalted for ever.
Blessed are You in the temple of Your holy glory: to be praised and highly exalted for ever.
Blessed are You Who sit upon cherubim and Who look into the depths: to be praised and highly exalted for ever.
Blessed are You on the glorious throne of Your kingdom: to be praised and highly exalted for ever.

¶ *Then the Second Lesson, taken out of the New Testament, shall be read according to the Lectionary.*

¶ *And after that the following Hymn shall be sung or said.*

¶ *But Note. That, except on the Sundays in Advent, the latter portion of it may be omitted.*

Benedictus. St. Luke 1:68ff.

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people;
And has raised up a mighty Saviour for us, in the royal house of His servant King David;
As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets who spoke to His people of old;
That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hands of all who hate us.

To show the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember His holy covenant;
The oath that He swore to our father Abraham, to grant that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear;
In holiness and righteousness before Him, 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 his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins;
Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise from on high has visited us;
To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

¶ Or this Psalm

Jubilate Deo. Psalm 100

MAKE a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; serve the Lord with gladness, and come before His presence with singing.
Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and bless His Name.
For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures for ever; and His faithfulness to all generations.

¶ *Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed by the Minister and the People, standing. And any church may, instead of the words, He descended into hell, use the words, He went into the place of departed spirits, which are considered as words of the same meaning in the Creed.*

I BELIEVE in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He shall come 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.

¶ Or the Creed commonly called the Nicene

I BELIEVE in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible.

And I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God; begotten of his Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of the same, identical substance as the Father; through Whom all things were made. For us human beings and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He shall come again with glory, to judge both the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, He is worshipped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

And I believe One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

¶ And after the Creed, the following Prayers shall be said as the People kneel; the Minister says,

The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with your spirit.

Minister. Let us pray.

¶ Here shall follow the Lord's Prayer, if it has not already been said.

Minister. O Lord show us Your mercy.

Answer. And grant us Your salvation.

Minister. O God, cleanse our hearts.

Answer. And do not take Your Holy Spirit from us.

¶ Then the Collect for the Day shall follow, except when the Communion Service is read; and then the Collect for the Day may be omitted here.

A Collect for Peace

O GOD, [You] Who are the author of peace and lover of harmony, Whom to know is eternal life and to serve is perfect freedom: defend us Your humble servants against all assaults of our enemies, that trusting in Your defense, we may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Collect for Grace

O LORD, our heavenly Father, Almighty and Eternal God, [You] Who have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: defend us, Your humble servants, during it, with Your mighty power; and grant that we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and also grant that being guided and governed by You, we may do what is right in Your sight, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *The following Prayers shall be omitted here when the Litany is said, and may be omitted when the Communion is to follow.*

¶ *And Note. That the Minister may here end the Morning Prayer with such general intercessions taken out of this Book, as he shall think fit, or with the Grace.*

A Prayer for The President of the United States, and all in Civil Authority.

LORD, our heavenly Father, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, Who behold from Your throne all who dwell on the earth: we most heartily ask You with Your favor to behold and bless Your servant The President of the United States, and all others in authority, and so replenish them with the grace of Your Holy Spirit that they always incline to Your will and walk in Your way. Endue them plenteously with heavenly gifts; grant them to live long in health and prosperity; and, finally, after this life to attain everlasting joy and blessedness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ *Or this.*

LORD, our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: we commend this nation to Your merciful care, that being guided by Your providence, we may dwell secure in Your peace. Grant to The President of the United States and to all in authority wisdom and strength to know and to do Your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness; and make them always mindful of their calling to serve this people in reverence before You; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Clergy and People.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, from Whom comes every good and perfect gift: send down Your Holy Spirit and grace on our Bishops, other Clergy, and on the congregations which they serve; and, that they may truly please You, pour upon them the refreshment of Your blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Prayer for all People.

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly pray that You will reveal Your ways to people of every kind and type, and Your saving power to all nations. In particular, we pray for your holy catholic Church, that it may be guided and governed by Your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Your fatherly goodness all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed in mind, body, personal welfare, or material circumstances [* especially those for whom our prayers are desired]. Be pleased, Father, to comfort and relieve them according to their various needs; give them patience under their suffering, and a happy deliverance out of their afflictions; for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

A General Thanksgiving

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we Your unworthy servants give You most humble and hearty thanks for all Your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all peoples; [* particularly to those who desire now to offer up their praises and thanksgivings for Your recent mercies graciously shown to them]. We bless You for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for Your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. Give us, we pray, such a sense of all Your mercies that our hearts may be sincerely thankful, so that we declare Your praise not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to Your service, and by walking before You in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

ALMIGHTY God, [You] Who have given us grace at this time in one mind to bring our common requests to You and have promised that when two or three are gathered together in Your Name, You will grant their requests; we ask You to fulfill now the desires and requests of Your servants in ways that are most suitable for them, granting us in this world knowledge of Your truth and in the world to come everlasting life. **Amen.**

2 Corinthians 13:14

THE grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. **Amen.**

Here ends the Order for Morning Prayer.