

Outline for Prayer at Close of Day

Opening Sentences
Prayer of Confession
Psalm Reading
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Lord's Prayer
Canticle of Simeon
Dismissal

Opening Sentences
O God, come to our assistance.
O Lord, hasten to help us.
The Lord grant us a restful night and peace at the last.
Amen.

Prayer of Confession
Almighty God, Maker of all things,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Christ, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.
Holy Spirit, Giver of life,
have mercy on us.

After a brief silence for self-examination, one of the following prayers is said:

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name.

Or

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, your face is hidden from us by our sins, and we forget your mercy in the blindness of our hearts. Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires. With lowliness and meekness may we draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

Or

Leader:

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault, in thought, word, and deed; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

All:

May Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins and give you time to amend your life.

Leader:

Amen.

All:

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault, in thought, word, and deed; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Leader:

May Almighty God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins and give you time to amend your life.

All:

Amen

PSALM

One of the following psalms is sung or said:

Psalm 4

Psalm 23

Psalm 33:1-12 or 33:13-22

Psalm 34:1-10 or 34:11-22

Psalm 91:1-2, 4, 9-16

Psalm 121

Psalm 134

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26

Psalm 139:1-12

Silence for reflection follows each psalm.

Scripture Reading

One of the following is read:

1 Matt. 11:28-30

[Jesus said:] Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

2 *1 Thess. 5:23*

May the God of peace . . . sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3 *Matt. 6:31-34*

Do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

4 *2 Cor. 4:6-10*

It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

5 *1 John 4:18-20*

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.

6 *Rev. 22:3c-5*

[The servants of the Lamb] will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

7 *John 14:27*

[Jesus said:] Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

8 *Rom. 8:38-39*

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

9 *Deut. 6:4-7*

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about

them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

PRAYER

A See Ps. 31:5; 17:8, 15

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.
Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;
hide us under the shadow of your wings.
In righteousness I shall see you;
when I awake your presence shall give me joy.

Or

B Ps. 4:8

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for in God alone I dwell unafraid.
One of the following prayers is then said:

O Lord, support us all the day long until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

O God, you have designed this wonderful world, and know all things good for us. Give us such faith that, by day and by night, at all times and in all places, we may without fear entrust those who are dear to us to your never-failing love, in this life and in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

Or

O God, who appointed the day for labor and the night for rest: Grant that we may rest in peace and quietness during the coming night so that tomorrow we may go forth to our appointed labors. Take us into your holy keeping, that no evil may befall us nor any ill come near our home. When at last our days are ended and our work is finished, grant that we may depart in your peace, in the sure hope of that glorious kingdom where there

is day without night, light without darkness, and life without shadow of death forever; through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. **Amen**

Or

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

Eternal God, the hours of both day and night are yours, and to you the darkness is no threat.

Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

O God our Creator, by whose mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: We give into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only those things which you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all for whom we have prayed, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

Send your peace into our hearts, O Lord, at the evening hour, that we may be contented with your mercies of this day, and confident of your protection for this night; and now, having forgiven others, even as you forgive us, may we have a pure comfort and a healthful rest within the shelter of this home; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Or

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Or

Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

Merciful God, give our bodies restful sleep and let the work we have done today bear fruit in eternal life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Or

Eternal and everlasting God, in the growing quietness of the evening and the deepening shadows of the night, grant us sleep and rest. With the stilling of the day's doings, and the end of coming and going about us, make us to be sleepy with heavy eyes and tired limbs. As your creatures are lying down in the wood, as the bird is quiet in its nest and the wild thing in its hole, as the stream is still in its bed reflecting the great expanse of stars above, may we in our sleep reflect our confidence in you, and our assurance in your constant peace. In our sleep give us that deeper communion of our souls with you who restores unto health. For your name's sake. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Canticle of Simeon

Luke 2:29-32

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

Dismissal

May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forevermore.

Amen.

Bless the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.