

## Outline for Service of Evening Prayer

### Opening Sentences

Hymn to Christ the Light

Thanksgiving for Light

Psalm Reading

Scripture Reading

Reflection on Scripture

Canticle of Mary

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

(Hymn)

Dismissal

### Opening Sentences

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them has the light shined.

**We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.**

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**Evening Hymn: Hymn to Christ the Light** (May be spoken instead of sung)

(A candle may be lit as the hymn is sung/spoken)

O radiant Light, O Sun divine,  
of God the Father's deathless face,  
O image of the Light sublime,  
that fills the heavenly dwelling place.

O Son of God, the source of life,  
praise is your due by night and day.  
Our happy lips must raise the strain  
of your esteemed and splendid name.

Lord Jesus Christ, as daylight fades,  
as shine the lights of eventide,  
we praise the Father with the Son,  
the Spirit blest and with them one.

### Thanksgiving for Light

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness.

In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory, made flesh and visible to us in Jesus Christ, your Son. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace.

Through the outpouring of your Spirit you give sight to our souls, that we may see your glory in the presence of Christ. Strengthen us where we are weak, support us in our efforts to do your will, and free our tongues to sing your praise, for to you all honor and blessing are due, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Daily Lectionary Readings with psalms and other readings that allow the Bible to be read in two years may be found at <http://www.pcusa.org/lectionary/>

Daily Readings that draw from the Sunday lectionary may be found at <http://www.tcpresbyterian.blogspot.com/>

## **Psalms**

### **Scripture Reading**

#### **Silent Reflection**

**[A Brief Interpretation of the Reading, or a Nonbiblical Reading]**

#### **Canticle of Mary**

Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
**the lifting of my hands as an evening sacrifice.**

Or

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.  
**O God, in you I trust.**

**One of the following, or other prayers of thanksgiving and intercession, are said:**

#### ***Sunday***

We lift our voices in prayers of praise, holy God, for you have lifted us to new life in Jesus Christ, and your blessings come in generous measure. Especially we thank

you for  
the privilege of worship and service in this congregation . . .  
the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ for us . . .  
food and drink to share in the Lord's name . . .  
our calling to discipleship. . . .  
We hold up before you human needs, God of compassion, for you have come to  
us in Jesus Christ and shared our life so we may share his resurrection. Especially  
we pray for  
the healing of those who are sick . . .  
the comfort of the dying . . .  
the renewal of those who despair . . .  
the Spirit's power in the church. . . .

### ***Monday***

We rejoice in your generous goodness, O God, and celebrate your lavish gifts to  
us this day, for you have shown your love in giving Jesus Christ for the salvation  
of the world. Especially we give thanks for  
the labors of those who have served us today . . .  
friends with whom we have shared . . .  
those whom we love and have loved us . . .  
opportunities for our work to help others . . .  
all beauty that delights us. . . .  
Gracious God, we know you are close to all in need, and by our prayers for others  
we come closer to you. We are bold to claim for others your promises of new  
life in Jesus Christ, as we claim them for ourselves. Especially we pray for  
those in dangerous occupations . . .  
physicians and nurses . . .  
those who are ill or confined to nursing homes . . .  
those who mourn . . .  
the Roman Catholic Church. . . .

### ***Tuesday***

Eternal God, we thank you for being with us today, and for every sign of your  
truth and love in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for  
the gift of peace in Christ . . .  
reconciliation in our relationships . . .  
each new insight into your love . . .  
energy and courage to share your love . . .  
the ministries of the church. . . .  
Gracious God, we remember in our own hearts the needs of others, that we may  
reach up to claim your love for them, and reach out to give your love in the name  
of Christ. Especially we pray for  
racial harmony and justice . . .  
those imprisoned . . .  
strangers we have met today . . .  
friends who are bereaved . . .  
Orthodox and Coptic churches. . . .

### ***Wednesday***

Give us your peace, O God, that we may rejoice in your goodness to us and to all

your children, and be thankful for your love revealed in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for  
people who reveal your truth and righteousness . . .  
courage to be bold disciples . . .  
those who show hospitality . . .  
surprises that have blessed us . . .  
the unity of the church of Jesus Christ. . . .  
Give us your peace, O God, that we may be confident of your care for us and all your children, as we remember the needs of others. Especially we pray for  
friends and relatives who are far away . . .  
neighbors in special need . . .  
those who suffer hunger and thirst . . .  
those who work at night while others sleep . . .  
Episcopal and Methodist churches. . . .

### ***Thursday***

We give you our praise and thanks, O God, for all gifts of love we have received from you, and for your persistent mercy in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for  
work we have accomplished pleasing to you . . .  
the faithful witness of Christian people . . .  
the example of righteousness we see in parents and teachers . . .  
the innocence and openness we see in children . . .  
all works of Christian compassion. . . .  
We give you our cares and concerns, O God, because we know you are kind and care for your children in every circumstance. Especially we pray for  
those who struggle with doubt and despair . . .  
people afflicted with disease . . .  
those called to special ministries . . .  
people neglected or abused . . .  
Baptist, Disciples of Christ, and other free churches. . . .

### ***Friday***

Merciful God, we praise you that you give strength for every weakness, forgiveness for our failures, and new beginnings in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for  
the guidance of your spirit through this day . . .  
signs of new life and hope . . .  
people who have helped us . . .  
those who struggle for justice . . .  
expressions of love unexpected or undeserved. . . .  
Almighty God, you know all needs before we speak our prayers, yet you welcome our concerns for others in Jesus Christ. Especially we pray for  
those who keep watch over the sick and dying . . .  
those who weep with the grieving . . .  
those who are without faith and cannot accept your love . . .  
the aged who are lonely, distressed or weak . . .  
Reformed, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches. . . .

### ***Saturday***

God of glory, we praise you for your presence in our lives, and for all goodness that you shower upon your children in Jesus Christ. Especially we thank you for promises kept and hope for tomorrow . . .

the enjoyment of friends . . .

the wonders of your creation . . .

love from our parents, our sisters and brothers, our spouses and children . . .

pleasures of living. . . .

God of grace, we are one with all your children, for we are sisters and brothers of Jesus Christ, and we offer our prayers for all whom we love. Especially we pray for

those we too often forget . . .

people who have lost hope . . .

victims of tragedy and disaster . . .

those who suffer mental anguish . . .

ecumenical councils and church agencies. . . .

**Individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may be offered. There may be silent prayer. The leader then says one of the following prayers, or a similar prayer.**

God of the prophets,  
you sent your messenger into the wilderness of Jordan  
to prepare human hearts for the coming of your Son.

Help us to prepare for Christ's coming,  
and to hear the good news and repent,  
that we may be ready to welcome the Lord,  
our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Or

God of hope and joy,  
the day draws near when the glory of your Son  
will brighten the night of the waiting world.

Let no sorrow hinder the joy  
of those who seek him.

Let no sin obscure the vision of wisdom  
seen by those who find him.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Or

God of grace,  
ever faithful to your promises,  
the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming  
and looks forward with longing  
to his return at the end of time.

Prepare our hearts to receive him when he comes,  
for he is Lord forever and ever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

[Hymn or Spiritual]

### Dismissal

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

**Amen.**

Bless the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

Or

May the Lord, who is our peace,  
give us peace at all times and in every way.

**Amen.**

Bless the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

Or

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

Bless the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**