

The Order of Morning Prayer Service

Rite I

Opening Sentences

The Minister shall commence the Morning Prayer with one or more of the following Scripture Sentences:

"The presence of the Lord fills his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him." - Habakkuk 2:20

"I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'" - Psalm 122:1

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:14

"Send out your light and your truth; let them guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you live." - Psalm 43:3

"This is what the high and lofty One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: 'I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.'" - Isaiah 57:15

"The time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way." - John 4:23

For Special Occasions:

Christmas: "Behold, I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" - Luke 2:10-11

Epiphany: "From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!" - Malachi 1:11

Lent: "Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He is eager to relent and not punish." - Joel 2:13

Good Friday: "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?" - Lamentations 1:12

Easter: "He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Look, this is where they laid his body." - Mark 16:6

The Minister's Address

The Minister shall then address the congregation:

Dearly beloved, the Scriptures urge us in various places to acknowledge and confess our sins and wickedness openly before Almighty God our heavenly Father. We should not hide or disguise them, but confess them with humble, penitent hearts, seeking forgiveness through His infinite goodness and mercy. Though we should always humbly acknowledge our sins before God, it is especially fitting when we gather together to give thanks for His great blessings, to praise His holy Word, and to ask for what we need for body and soul. Therefore, I urge and beseech all who are present here to join me with pure hearts and humble voices as we approach the throne of heavenly grace.

Confession of Sin

The Minister may then lead the congregation in the General Confession:

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed our own desires and ignored your commandments. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

The Minister shall then declare the Absolution:

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, desires not the death of a sinner but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. He has given power and commandment to His Ministers to declare and pronounce to His people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent and believe in His holy Gospel. Therefore, let us beseech Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, that our actions may please Him and our lives may be pure and holy, so that in the end, we may share in His eternal joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Minister shall then lead the congregation in 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.

Opening Hymn

The Minister shall then prompt the congregation:

Let us open our lips to sing praises to the Lord.

Congregation: And our mouths shall declare your praise.

Minister: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Congregation: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Minister: Praise the Lord.

Congregation: The Lord's name be praised.

The congregation shall then sing the Opening Hymn.

Singing of Hymns and Canticles

On ordinary days, the Minister shall lead the congregation in the singing of hymns and canticles, according to the liturgical calendar and the prescribed selections. Additionally, the Venite, Benedictus, and Jubilate may be sung or said as appropriate.

The First Lesson

The Minister shall announce and read the First Lesson from the Old Testament, according to the designated reading for the day.

Hymn

After the First Lesson, the congregation shall sing a hymn.

The Second Lesson

The Minister shall announce and read the Second Lesson from the New Testament, according to the designated reading for the day.

Hymn

After the Second Lesson, the congregation shall sing a hymn.

The Sermon

Following the readings, the Minister shall preach the sermon, expounding on the Scripture passages and offering spiritual guidance and insight to the congregation.

The Apostles' Creed

After the sermon, the Minister and congregation shall stand to recite the Apostles' Creed, affirming their faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will 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.

Prayers

The Minister shall lead the congregation in prayers, including intercessions, petitions, and thanksgivings, as appropriate for the day and the needs of the people.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

Minister and Congregation: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Minister shall then lead the following prayers:

The Collect of the Day

The Collect of the Day shall be read by the Minister, appropriate to the liturgical calendar.

Additional Collects

Minister:

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom. Defend us your humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day. Defend us by your mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings may be ordered by your governance, to do always what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Intercessions

The Minister shall lead the intercessions:

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Minister:

Almighty and everliving God, we are taught by your holy Word to offer prayers and supplications, and to give thanks for all people. We humbly ask you to receive these our prayers, which we offer to your divine majesty, beseeching you to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all who confess your holy name may agree in the truth of your holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We pray that you will lead the nations of the world in the way of righteousness; and so guide and direct their leaders, especially [name], that your people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace. Grant that our leaders may impartially administer justice, uphold integrity and truth, restrain wickedness and vice, and protect true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and other ministers, especially [name], that by their life and doctrine they may set forth your true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer your holy Sacraments. And to all your people give your heavenly grace, especially to this congregation here present, that with meek heart and due reverence they may hear and receive your holy Word, truly serving you in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We most humbly beseech you, of your goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity [especially those for whom our prayers are desired].

The Minister may add specific intercessions and thanksgivings here.

And we also bless your holy name for all your servants who have departed this life in your faith and fear, beseeching you to grant them continual growth in your love and service, and to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of your heavenly kingdom. Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

Singing of Anthems and Songs

Throughout the service, anthems and songs may be sung by the congregation, choir, or soloists, enhancing the worship experience and glorifying God.

The Collects

The Minister shall conclude the prayers with the Collects, gathering the petitions of the people and offering them to God in the name of Jesus Christ.

Closing Hymn

At the conclusion of the service, the congregation shall sing a Closing Hymn, expressing praise and thanksgiving to God.

Benediction

The Minister shall pronounce the Benediction, imparting God's blessing upon the congregation as they depart to live out their faith in the world:

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Sentences

The Minister shall conclude the service with the Closing Sentences, sending forth the congregation with words of encouragement and assurance from Scripture:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen. - 2 Corinthians 13:14