

EVENING PRAYERS

for the season of Lent

LENT IS 40 DAYS RUNNING ASH WEDNESDAY UNTIL THE SATURDAY BEFORE EASTER

The 40 days are a reminder of the 40 days Jesus withdrew and fasted in the wilderness (see Luke 4).

It is a season for self-examination and repentance in preparation for Easter.

LEADER: The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. Amen.

LEADER: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

PEOPLE: The maker of heaven and earth.

LEADER: Let us confess our sins to God.

Take a few moments for silent confession here.

ALL:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:

We have sinned against you,

through our own fault,

in thought, and word, and deed,

and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,

forgive us all our offenses;

and grant that we may serve you

in newness of life, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

LEADER: May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LEADER: O God, make speed to save us.

PEOPLE: O Lord, make haste to help us.

ALL: 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.

Psalms 31

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame: *
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me,
O LORD, O God of truth.

Scripture Reading: Joel 2:12-13

"Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend 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."

ALL:

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.

LEADER: Lord, hear our prayer;

PEOPLE: And let our cry come to you.

LEADER: Let us pray.

THE LEADER READS THESE PRAYERS:

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

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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.

Take a moment for silence or prayers of intercession or thanksgiving here.

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.

ALL:

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

The LEADER concludes:

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Hebrews 13:20-21

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer,
"An Order for Compline," p. 135