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**TABLE**

# The Service of Light & Vespers: Evening Prayer for Advent 2018

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*The table or gathering place is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin. A central candle may be used with any other number of candles or lamps that are necessary for light. When the candle is lit, with the other candles and lamps, the Candlelighter greets the people.*

## Greeting

*Candlelighter:* Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People:*           **Thanks be to God.**

*The Candlelighter reads one of the following short lessons.*

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - *John 8:12*

**Or**

Jesus said: "I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness." - *John 12:46*

## Prayer for Light

*Candlelighter:* Let us pray.

*The Candlelighter reads one of the following prayers.*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O Lord, and by 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.** - *BCP*

**Or**

Almighty and most merciful God, kindle within us the fire of love that by its cleansing flame we may be purged of all our sins and made worthy to worship you in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** - *BCP*

**Or**

O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning and the noonday one day, and have made the sun to know its going down, dispel the darkness of our hearts that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. **Amen.** - *BCP*

## Confession

*Service Leader:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

*People:* **His mercy endures forever.**

*Service Leader:* Let us confess our sins before our Father in heaven.

*Silence is kept.*

*Together:* **Most 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. 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.**

*Service Leader:* (Non-clergy substitute "us" for "you" and "our" for "your.") Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

**The evening service continues in any of the following ways:** *If a meal is to be shared, a favorite prayer, a family or children's grace, a sung chorus or one of the following blessings, may follow the Confession. In the place of a meal, a meditation or reading could take place. If nothing, the Vespers simply continue.*

## Grace at Meals

*One of the following prayers is prayed before the meal:*

Give us grateful hearts, our Father, for all your mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Bless, O Lord, these gifts to our use and us to your service, for Christ's sake. **Amen.**

For these and all his mercies, God's holy Name be blessed and praised, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# Vespers: Come Lord Jesus!

*At the conclusion of the meal, or if there has been no break.*

Service Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## O Gracious Light

*Together:*

**O gracious light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

## Evening Psalm

*Advent Psalms from the Sunday lectionary are printed at the end.*

Psalm Reader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*Gloria Patri (together):*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

November 26th — December 2nd

*Psalm 25:1-9*

December 3rd — December 9th

*Canticle 16*

December 10th — December 16th

*Canticle 9*

December 17th — December 23rd

*Psalm 80:1-7*

*The Psalm Appointed*

*The reading of the psalm is concluded with the Gloria Patri.*

*Gloria Patri (together):*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

## The Prayers

*Prayer Leader:* Let us pray.

**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.**

## The Magificat

*The Magnificat may be read alone, together, or responsively at the asterisks. It could be sung if a setting is available. Children can read it. A recording may be listened to while contemplating the scripture.*

*Antiphon for Nov 26 - Dec 9 (together)*

**A voice is heard crying in the wilderness,  
Prepare the way of the Lord.**

*Antiphon for Dec 10 - Dec 23 (together)*

**O Emmanuel, our God and king,  
Come and save us!**

**The Song of Mary** - Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
 and has lifted up the lowly.  
 He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
 and the rich he has sent away empty.  
 He has come to the help of his servant Israel,\*  
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
 The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
 to Abraham and his children forever.

*Antiphon for Nov 26 - Dec 9 (together)*

**A voice is heard crying in the wilderness,  
 Prepare the way of the Lord.**

*Antiphon for Dec 10 - Dec 23 (together)*

**O Emmanuel, our God and king,  
 Come and save us!**

## Collects for the Evening

*The Service Leader may assign readers to pray the collects.  
 First, pray the collect for the current week of Advent:*

### **First Sunday of Advent**

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation, give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself: who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Then pray one of the following collects:*

### **Liturgy Archive**

God and Father, in the wilderness of the Jordan you sent a messenger to prepare all hearts for the coming of your Son; help us to hear his words and repent of our sins that we may clearly see the way to walk, the truth to speak and the life to live for him: Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

### **The Ravenna Roll**

O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **Prayer in the Evening**

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. **Amen.**

### **St. Augustine's Prayer for the Night**

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.**

# Closing

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*Service Leader:* Let us bless the Lord!  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*The Service Leader concludes the Vespers with two of the following passages.*

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. - *Malachi 3:1*

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion: "Your God reigns!"  
- *Isaiah 52:7*

**Or**

Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.  
- *Isaiah 7:14*

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord will fulfill his promises to her!" - *Luke 1:45*

## Collect: Benediction

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of day and night, giving rest to the weary, renewing the strength of those who are spent, bestowing upon us occasions of song in the evening; as you have protected us in the day that is past, so be with us in the coming night; keep us from every sin, every evil, and every fear; for you are our light and salvation and the strength of our life: to you be glory for endless ages. **Amen.**

## Evening Psalms for Advent

*[November 26—December 2]*

### **Psalm 25:1-9 - Ad te, Domine, levavi**

- 1 - To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 - Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 - Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 - Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 - Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 - Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 - Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 - He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 - All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

# Evening Psalms for Advent

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*[December 3—December 9]*

## **Canticle 16 - The Song of Zechariah Luke 1: 68-79 - Benedictus Dominus Deus**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
    he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
    born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
    from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
    and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
    to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear, \*  
    holy and righteous in his sight  
    all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
    for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
    by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God \*  
    the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the  
    shadow of death, \*  
    and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

# Evening Psalms for Advent

*[December 10—December 16]*

## **Canticle 9 - The First Song of Isaiah Isaiah 12:2-6 - Ecce, Deus**

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*  
and he will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*  
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, \*

Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*  
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

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.**

# Evening Psalms for Advent

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*[December 17—December 23]*

## **Psalm 80:1-7 - Qui regis Israel**

- 1 - Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 - In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 - Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 - O LORD God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 - You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 - You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 - Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.



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