

PREPARATION

OPENING PRAYER

*Stand*

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

A SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

*1 Peter 5: 8, 9*

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Thanks be to God.**

O God, make speed to save us.

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

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

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

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

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM

*Psalm 31:1-6*

1 In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust: ■

let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.

2 Bow down thine ear to me ■

make haste to deliver me.

3 And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence ■:

that thou mayest save me.

4 For thou art my strong rock, and my castle ■

be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy name's sake.

5 Draw me out of the net, that they have laid privily for me, ■

for thou art my strength.

6 Into thy hands I commend my spirit, ■

for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

*1 Corinthians 1: 18-31*

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe?

Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

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ADDRESS

RESPONSORY

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.**

HYMN

Before the ending of the day,  
creator of the world, we pray  
that thou with wonted love wouldst keep  
thy watch around us while we sleep.

O let no evil dreams be near,  
or phantoms of the night appear;  
our ghostly enemy restrain,  
lest aught of sin our bodies stain.

To thee, O saving Three in One,  
let homage due by all be done;  
and grant us, by the cross restored,  
to share the Victor's great reward. Amen.

POEM

**CALLED TO BECOME**

You are called to become  
 A perfect creation.  
 No one is called to become  
 Who you are called to be.  
 It does not matter  
 How short or tall  
 Or thick-set or slow  
 You may be.  
 It does not matter  
 Whether you sparkle with life  
 Or are as silent as a still pool.  
 Whether you sing your song aloud  
 Or weep alone in darkness.  
 It does not matter  
 Whether you feel loved and admired  
 Or unloved and alone  
 For you are called to become  
 A perfect creation.  
 No one's shadow  
 Should cloud your becoming.  
 No one's light  
 Should dispel your spark.  
 For the Lord delights in you.  
 Jealously looks upon you  
 And encourages with gentle joy  
 Every movement of the Spirit  
 Within you.  
 Unique and loved you stand.  
 Beautiful or stunted in your growth  
 But never without hope and life.  
 For you are called to become  
 A perfect creation.  
 This becoming may be  
 Gentle or harsh.  
 Subtle or violent.  
 But it never ceases.  
 Never pauses or hesitates.  
 Only is—  
 Creative force—  
 Calling you  
 Calling you to become  
 A perfect creation.

*Edwina Gately*

**VERSICLE AND RESPONSE**

*The following responsory may be said:*

Keep me as the apple of an eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

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

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

*The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, ■  
 according to thy word.  
 2 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ■  
 which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;  
 3 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles ■  
 and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
 Ghost;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
 world without end. Amen.

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

**PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
 Lord, have mercy upon us.

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. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers,  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever;**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give  
us his blessing.  
**Amen.**

CONFESSION

*A prayerful examination of the past day may be  
undertaken after which the following or other suitable  
words of penitence may be used*

**We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,  
Through our own  
grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have  
mercy upon us.  
Almighty God, have mercy upon us, Forgive us all  
our sins, Deliver us  
from all evil, Confirm and strengthen us in all  
goodness, And bring us  
to life everlasting; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*The priest, when present, pronounces the absolution.*

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you  
pardon and remission of all your sins, time for  
amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the  
Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us  
**that thy people may rejoice in thee?**  
O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us  
**and grant us thy salvation.**  
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.  
**O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**  
O Lord, hear our prayer  
**and let our cry come unto thee.**  
Let us pray.

### THE COLLECTS

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, our homes,  
and drive away all the snares of the enemy;  
Let thy holy angels dwell therein  
to preserve us in peace;  
and may thy blessing be upon us evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,  
as we stand at the foot of the cross of thy Son,  
help us to see and know thy love for us,  
so that in humility, love and joy  
we may place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

### THE ENDING

### DISMISSAL

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.  
**For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in  
safety.**

The Lord be with you  
**and with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### BLESSING

**May Christ, who heals us through his blood, bless us.  
May he restore in us whatever is lacking in our faith  
and set us at liberty to worship him in freedom  
through our words and deeds. Amen.**