

EVENING PRAYER IN EASTER

Welcome to Evening Prayer at Christ Church Southwark. Prayer then is a way of intentionally focusing our awareness of the presence of God in our lives. To help us with this task, there are readings, pauses and a particular prayer practice which the person leading the prayers will explain at the start. The asterisks mark a pause to enable breathing and to reflect on what is being said.

THE WELCOME

Leader welcomes those gathered and explains the particular prayer practice and readings.

THE PREPARATION AND INVOCATION

Silent Pause as Candle is lit.

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord make haste to help us.

You, O lord, are my lamp;

you turn our darkness into light.

Blessèd are you, Sovereign God,
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and power for ever.

From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.

As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.

Blessèd be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;

Blessèd be God for ever.

A SONG OF THE LIGHT

(From the 3rd Century Greek Hymn Phos Hilaron)

Hail gladdening light, of thy pure glory poured.

Who is the immortal Father, heavenly blessed.

Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we have come to the sun's hour of rest

The lights of evening round us shine.

We hymn the Father, Son,

and Holy Spirit Divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung

With undefilèd tongues.

Son of our God, giver of life alone.

Therefore in all the world thy Glory Lord thy own.

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful let us pray with one heart and mind.

Short Pause

As our evening prayer rises before you O God, so may your mercy come down upon us to cleanse our hearts and set us free to sing your praise, now and forever, Amen.

LECTIONARY PSALM

Silent Pause

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Silent Pause

PRAYER PRACTICE – SILENT MEDITATION

Prayer Practice to end when Leader says AMEN.

THE MAGNIFICAT

Please stand as you are able.

**My Soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;
for he has looked with favour 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
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
to remember his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

To Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and who now lives in the glory of the Father, let us raise the voice of praise.

Lord Jesus, you are the Amen, the faithful witness,
the first of God's creation: **R**

You search into the thoughts and affections of all people: **R**

You reprove and chasten those whom you love: **R**

You open up the eyes of the blind and set the prisoners free: **R**

Free prayer may be offered and responses made

In your paschal victory, you have proclaimed the coming of the kingdom: **R**

THE COLLECT for Easteride:

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL COLLECT PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

May the Lord bless us and keep us from all harm,
And may God lead us to eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Candle is extinguished