

An Order of Worship for the Evening

All stand, and the Officiant greets the people with these words

Officiant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,” darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalms 139:10-11*

Let us pray.

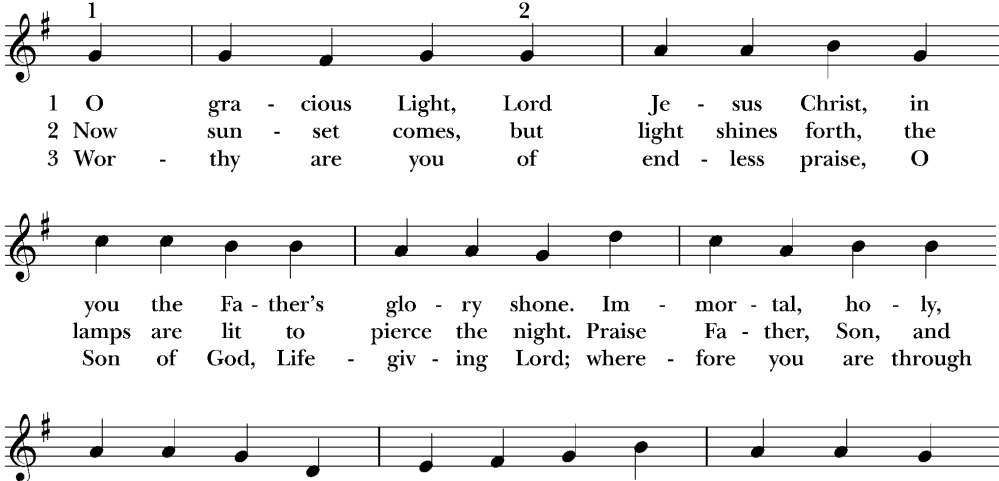
O Lord God Almighty, as you have taught us to call the evening, the morning, and the noonday one day; and have made the sun to know its going down; Dispel the darkness of our hearts, that by your brightness we may know you to be the true God and eternal light, living and reigning for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Creator of all, we pray for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and gracious power, work in them the divine purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ, who rose from the dead that we might share your life. ***Amen.***

As the following hymn is sung, the candles at the altar are now lighted.

O gracious Light

H 25



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O

you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through

blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O LORD, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.

- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

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.

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so
that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

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

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people 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.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Reader: A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

“Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle Q
A Song of Christ's Goodness
Anselm of Canterbury

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; *
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, *
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, *
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; *
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; *
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, *
your touch makes sinners righteous. Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; *
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, *
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

The Prayers

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: *And also with you.*
Officiant: Let us pray.

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.

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful.
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned
before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

The Collect for the Departed

Eternal Lord God, you hold all souls in life: Give to your whole Church in paradise and on earth your light and your peace; and grant that we, following the good examples of those who have served you here and are now at rest, may at the last enter with them into your unending joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Necrology

We will now read the names of our loved ones who have died.

The Collect of the Day

O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of your Son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Eternal God, fountain of all mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously with all who mourn, that casting their care on you, they may know the power of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Hope and our Peace. *Amen.*

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, creator of the changes of the 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.*

The Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. *Amen.*

The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. *Amen.*

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. *Amen.*

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Notes for All Souls Evening Prayer

The feast of All Souls (Nov. 2) is often overlooked in our excitement about All Saints, but it can be a very meaningful liturgical observance, especially for those who are grieving. All Souls gives us the opportunity to remember that great cloud of witnesses who have personally supported us in our life in Christ. It is also a good opportunity to invite friends and community members who might be grieving.

Notes:

- This service may be led by a lay worship leader, and, as written, does not require a musician, although the addition of music would certainly be appropriate. You might consider simple Taize hymns to set a contemplative tone.
- If you have a columbarium or cemetery, consider holding the service there, timing it with sunset.
- Light is an important part of this service. Ideally, it will begin in the dark or at dusk, with the candles being lit during the singing of *O Gracious Light*. You might also consider incorporating candles into other parts of the service. For example, if your gathering is small, you could invite people to light votive candles during the reading of the necrology as they remember their departed loved ones. At St. Alban's, this is the night on which we light luminaries and place them at the headstone of each grave.
- For ideas, also see Dia de los Muertos: Day of the Dead in the Book of Occasional Services, page 144,
https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/uploads/1/2/9/8/129843103/book_of_occasional_services_final.pdf

- The hymn, “O Gracious Light,” is intended to be sung a capella, although it could be accompanied by music. If you do not have someone to lead the singing, you could speak the words together.
- Psalm 130 and the two canticles are intended to be read in unison.

Preparation

- All your congregation will need is a bulletin.
- In the weeks before this service, ask people to send in the names of people who have died whom they want to be remembered in the necrology.
- Depending on the tradition at your church, the necrology may be a shorter or a longer list of names. Some churches maintain a necrology that includes everyone buried at the church as well as other loved ones who have died. Other churches assemble a new necrology each year based on submission of names from parishioners. If your list is on the longer side, consider dividing it up and asking several people to read the names.