

Advent Evening Prayer and Worship

Opening Sentences at Entrance of the Evening

O God, come to our assistance. O Lord, hasten to come to us.
From the root of Jesse, a flower will blossom,
and the glory of the Lord will fill the earth.
All creation shall see the saving power of God.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening, and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness and illumine your people and your church.

Hymn of Light *Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Thanksgiving for the Light: (Light a candle and pray)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe,
Creator of light and darkness.
In this holy season when the sun's light is swallowed up
by the growing darkness of the night,
You renew your promise to reveal among us the splendor of your glory,
made flesh and visible to us in Jesus Christ, your Son, sent to us.
Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace.
Through the outpouring of your Spirit, You give sight to our souls,
that we may see your glory in the presence of Christ.
Strengthen us where we are weak, support us in our efforts to do your will, and free our tongues
to sing your praise, for to you all honor and blessing are due, now and forever more. Amen.

EVENING PSALM: Psalm 141

O Lord, I call to you; come quickly to me.
Hear my voice when I call to you.
May my prayer be set before you like incense.
May the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.

SILENCE AND MEDITATION

RESPONSE TO PSALM: Night holds no terrors for us, sleeping under God's wings. Gracious God, let us live confident that nothing in life or death can ever separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Lift up prayers of intercession on behalf of friends, family, neighbors, community, and world concerns.

Gracious God, let us walk in light and love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Mend what is broken in us and restore us to communion with you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may be glad and gracious followers of the baby who is Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN: *I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light (or another Advent Hymn)*

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The story of my life is Jesus.
In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

God of the prophets, you sent your messenger into the wilderness of Jordan
To prepare human hearts for the coming of your Son.
Help us to prepare for Christ's coming, to hear the good news he preached, that we may be ready
to welcome the Lord, in new and meaningful ways this Advent.
May this night be a welcomed rest for our bodies, minds, and spirits.
Be with us as we sleep, renewing us for your service, and providing your sheltering Spirit.
To God be honor and glory forever and ever! Bless the Lord. The Lord's name be praised.
Amen.