

An Order of Worship for Evenings in Advent

The room is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

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

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

One of the following, or some other Short Lesson of Scripture appropriate to the occasion or to the season, may then be read.

The sun shall no longer be
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give light to you by night;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.
Your sun shall no more go down,
or your moon withdraw itself;
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Isaiah 60:19-20

Be dressed for action and have your lamps
lit; be like those who are waiting for their
master to return from the wedding
banquet, so that they may open the door
for him as soon as he comes and knocks.
Blessed are those slaves whom the
master finds alert when he comes; truly I
tell you, he will fasten his belt and have
them sit down to eat, and he will come and
serve them.

Luke 12:35-37

The Officiant then says the Prayer for Light, using any one of the following or some other suitable prayer, first saying

Let us pray.

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 for ever.

Amen.

The candles at the Altar are now lighted, as are other candles and lamps as may be convenient. During the candle-lighting, an appropriate anthem or psalm may be sung, or silence kept. The

following hymn, or a metrical version of it, or some other hymn, is then sung

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

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.

On feasts or other days of special significance, the Collect of the Day, or one proper to the season, may precede the Blessing or Dismissal. On other days, either of the following, or one of the Collects from Evening Prayer or from Compline, may be so used

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors, 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.**

Almighty, everlasting God, let our prayer in your sight be as incense, the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. Give us grace to behold you, present in your Word and Sacraments, and to recognize you in the lives of those around us. Stir up in us the flame of that love which burned in the heart of your Son as he bore his passion, and let it burn in us to eternal life and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

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.**

The People respond Thanks be to God.