

Giving and Giving Up

An Evening Prayer for Lent

¶ Preparation

My vows to you I must perform, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. For you have delivered my soul from death and my feet from falling, so that I may walk before God in the light of life.

Psalm 56.12-13

O Lord, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

My hearts tells of your word, 'Seek my face.'

Your face, Lord, will I seek.

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,
that freed from the misery of sin and shame
we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

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

Silence is kept.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may our hearts respond to your call,
seeking to grow in generosity,
and draw closer to you.

Amen.

¶ The Word of God

Psalmody: Psalm 37.18-32

Your steps are guided by the Lord and you delight in his way.

- 18 The Lord knows the days of the godly,
and their inheritance shall stand for ever.
- 19 They shall not be put to shame in the perilous time,
and in days of famine they shall have enough.**
- 20 But the wicked shall perish;
like the glory of the meadows
the enemies of the Lord shall vanish;
they shall vanish like smoke.
- 21 The wicked borrow and do not repay,
but the righteous are generous in giving.**
- 22 For those who are blest by God shall possess the land,
but those who are cursed by him shall be rooted out.
- 23 When your steps are guided by the Lord
and you delight in his way,**

- 24 Though you stumble, you shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds you fast by the hand.
- 25 I have been young and now am old,
yet never have I seen the righteous forsaken,
or their children begging their bread.**
- 26 All the day long they are generous in lending,
and their children also shall be blest.
- 27 Depart from evil and do good
and you shall abide for ever.**
- 28 For the Lord loves the thing that is right
and will not forsake his faithful ones.
- 29 The unjust shall be destroyed for ever,
and the offspring of the wicked shall be rooted out.**
- 30 The righteous shall possess the land
and dwell in it for ever.
- 31 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and their tongue speaks the thing that is right.**
- 32 The law of their God is in their heart
and their footsteps shall not slide.

Your steps are guided by the Lord and you delight in his way.

Glory 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.**



The First Reading

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Hebrews 1.2

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

1 Timothy 6.17-19

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsory

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation,

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O My God, in you I trust.

Gospel Canticle

**You created all things, O God,
and are worthy of our praise for ever.**

- 1 You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power.
- 2 For you have created all things,
and by your will they have their being.
- 3 You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation.
- 4 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God,
and they will reign with you on earth.

**To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**You created all things, O God,
and are worthy of our praise for ever.**

A short reflection may be given.

¶ Prayers

We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things
and to give ourselves to him this Lent, saying

Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your Church the courage
to follow in the footsteps of Christ,
giving up itself and taking up its cross,
and giving more time to your mission in the world.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage to give up war,
bitterness and hatred,
and to seek peace.
May the shoulders of the risen Christ,
once scourged by soldiers,
bear the burden of political and military
conflict in our world.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our quarrels, strife and jealousy
in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.
May the presence of the risen Christ,
his body once broken and now made whole,
bring peace and direction as we live with one another.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage
to give up our selfishness as we live for others,
and to give time and resources to grow your kingdom.
May the hands of Christ bring guidance and strength,
and the light of his presence fill our hearts.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Lord God.
you sent your Son Jesus
to give up everything for us:
may the gifts we bring,
whether great or small,
be the very best that we can offer
and a sign of our grateful love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Coming to God with thankful hearts,
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 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.**

¶ Conclusion

Give us, Lord, an ever watchful heart,
which no subtle speculation may ever lure from you.

Give us a steadfast heart,
that no unworthy affection may drag downwards.

Give us an unconquered heart,
which no tribulation can wear out.

Give us an upright heart,
which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside.

Enlighten us with understanding to know you,
diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you,
and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

**Let us go onward to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's generosity
and to grow more into the likeness of Christ.**

Amen.

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