

Prayer in the Evening for Stewardship

Introductory verses

Be swift, O God, to save us,
Come quickly, Lord, to help us.
By grace you have been saved:
By the gift of God.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit;
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.**

Prayers of penitence

You have granted us every good gift:
We have squandered the gifts you have given.
You have entrusted the earth to us:
We have failed to care for your creation.
You have called to us in our needy sisters and brothers:
We have closed our hands and our hearts.
You made us and you know us:
We stand before you in need of your love and mercy.

God is faithful and ever generous to his children,
Know that he has given you forgiveness for all your offences.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Revelation 4.11; 5.9-11

Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.

**Worthy are you, O Lord,
to take the scroll and to open its seals,
for you were slain
and by your blood you ransomed us for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation.**

You have made us a kingdom and priests to our God,
and we shall reign on earth.

**Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might
and honour and glory and blessing!**

Glory be to the father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit:
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen. [1]**

Either:

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And all our dear ones
This night and every night
Amen. [4]

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught his
disciples, we pray:
**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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen**

We say together the prayer
that Jesus gave us:
**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.
Save us from the time of
trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

A. O God, our Heavenly Father,
Who has entrusted us with many good things in this life,
Help us to use them as stewards of your bounty.
Grant that we may dedicate to you our time,
Our talents and our material possessions,
And so take a worthy share in the work of your Kingdom,
For Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Or

B. Generous God, you are Life:
Life that gives itself,
Returns upon itself
And pours itself out afresh:
God the Holy Trinity.
You have made us
In your image.
Help us to live with
Generosity and commitment
as our priority too.
May our praise and thanksgiving
Be shown not only with our lips,
But in our lives:
Through our time, our purses,
Our skills and our prayer. **Amen.** [2]

Psalm 65

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.

To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins;
when our misdeeds prevail against us,
you will purge them away.

**Happy are they whom you choose
and draw to your courts to dwell there.
We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house,
even of your holy temple.**

With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation,
O hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.

**In your strength you set fast the mountains
and are girded about with might.
You still the raging of the seas,
the roaring of their waves
and the clamour of the peoples.**

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth
tremble at your marvels;
the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise.

**You visit the earth and water it;
you make it very plenteous.
The river of God is full of water;
you prepare grain for your people,
for so you provide for the earth.**

Final Prayer

High King of Heaven,
You give us the moon to guard the night,
You give us the stars to embroider the heavens
You give us sleep to refresh our tired souls.
May we be ever thankful for these gifts:
Of moonlight and nightfall
Of silence and sleep. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The following may be said:

May the souls of the faithful,
Through the mercy of God,
Rest in peace and rise in glory. **Amen**

Acknowledgements

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Through your own son, O maker of all,
grant us the fullness our lives long for:

**Love for God,
love from God,
the smile of God,
the grace of God,
the wisdom of God,
the fear of God,
the imagination of God,
and God's purpose in all things.**

So may we live in this world
as saints and angels do in heaven.

**Each shadow and light,
each day and night,
each moment and kindness,
give us your spirit.**

O God of all gods,
grant us your light this night,
your grace as we sleep,
your joy in the morning
and let us be made pure in the well of your health.

**Lift us from anguish,
take from us empty pride,
and lighten our souls
with the light of your love.**

Jesus Christ, Son of Mary,
Shield and sustain us

You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.
You crown the year with your goodness,
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**May the pastures of the wilderness flow with goodness
and the hills be girded with joy.
May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep
and the valleys stand so thick with corn
that they shall laugh and sing.**

Glory be to the father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen. [3]**

Reading

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9.6-15)

Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
who 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.**

God has mercy on those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

**The Lord has showed strength with his arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory be to the father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit:
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.**

Prayers

Jesus, we thank you.

In your generosity, you became poor for us,
In your giving, you became empty for us,
In your grace, you became nothing for us.

You became poor, for us to become rich,
You became empty, for us to become full,
You became nothing, for us to become something.

Jesus, we thank you.

The knees of our hearts we bow
**in the sight of God who created us,
in the sight of the Son who died for us,
in the sight of the Spirit who helps us,
in friendship and affection.**