

EVENING PRAISE & PRAYER

Proclamation of the Light

You are encouraged to light an unadorned candle as the following words are spoken. If you are so inclined, you may also burn incense during this service. Since the fourth century of the early church, the burning of incense has served as a devotional sign of prayer (based on Psalm 141).

Light and peace in Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

We call upon you, O Lord;
come quickly to us;
give ear to our voice when we call to you.

Let our prayer be counted
as incense before you,
and the lifting up of our hands
as an evening sacrifice.

adapted from Psalm 141:1-2

The Doxology

adapted from No. 95, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, you heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Psalm 31:9-16

Common English Bible

⁹ Have mercy on me, LORD, because I'm depressed.

My vision fails because of my grief,
as do my spirit and my body.

¹⁰ My life is consumed with sadness;
my years are consumed with groaning.

Strength fails me because of my suffering;
my bones dry up.

¹¹ I'm a joke to all my enemies,
still worse to my neighbors.
I scare my friends,
and whoever sees me in the street runs away!

¹² I am forgotten, like I'm dead,
completely out of mind;
I am like a piece of pottery, destroyed.

¹³ Yes, I've heard all the gossiping,
terror all around;
so many gang up together against me,
they plan to take my life!

¹⁴ But me? I trust you, LORD!
I affirm, "You are my God."

¹⁵ My future is in your hands.
Don't hand me over to my enemies,
to all who are out to get me!

¹⁶ Shine your face on your servant;
save me by your faithful love!

Giving Thanks

Prayers of the People

You are encouraged to offer your voice to this time of prayer. After each petition, you may add your specific prayers of thanks and intercession. After each prayer, the pray-er should end with "Amen."

Together let us...

pray for our world.

pray for our community and
neighborhoods.

pray for our friends and family.

pray for ourselves.

The Lord's Prayer

No. 895, *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989)

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, forever. Amen.

Conclusion

Abide with us, O Christ,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you.

May God bless us,
that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving,
discipline, gentleness and peace.
Amen.

