# Prayer Towards 2020

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EVENING PRAYER

Introduction(All stand)

Presider: O God, come to our aid. (All make the sign of the cross)

**All: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

 **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,**

 **as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**

 **world without end. Amen. Alleluia.**

Proclamation of Light*(The paschal candle is lit)*

Presider: Light and peace in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

#### Hymn:

 **O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ**  (Or another appropriate hymn)

1. O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ

in you the Father’s glory shone.

 Immortal, holy, blest is he,

 and blest are you, his only Son.

 2. Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,

 the lamps are lit to pierce the night.

 Praise Father, Son and Spirit:

 God who dwells in the eternal light.

 3. Worthy are you of endless praise,

 O Son of God, life-giving Lord;

 wherefore you are through all the earth

 and in the highest heav’n adored.

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Presider: Let us give thanks to God our Father always and for everything.

**All: In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Presider: Praise be the Lord our God, ruler of the universe,

 who led our ancestors in the faith

 by a pillar of cloud by day

 and a pillar of fire by night

 and prepared a lamp for his Anointed.

Light up our darkness, O God, by the light of your Christ;

may his word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path,

for you are full of loving kindness for your whole creation

 and we, your creatures, glorify you,

 Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

PSALMODY(All sit)

*Psalm 112*

**Antiphon: The Lord God is high above the heavens,**

 **and from the dust he lifts up the lowly, alleluia.**

 Praise, O servants of the Lord,

 praise the name of the Lord!

 May the name of the Lord be blessed

 both now and for evermore!

 From the rising of the sun to its setting

 praised be the name of the Lord!

 High above all nations is the Lord,

 above the heavens his glory.

 Who is like the Lord, our God,

 who has risen on high to his throne

 yet stoops from the heights to look down,

 to look down upon heaven and earth?

 From the dust he lifts up the lowly,

 from their misery he raises the poor

 to set them in the company of princes,

 yes, with the princes of his people.

 To the childless wife he gives a home

 and gladdens her heart with children.

 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

 and to the Holy Spirit,

 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

 world without end. Amen.

**Antiphon: The Lord God is high above the heavens,**

 **and from the dust he lifts up the lowly, alleluia.**

#### Silence

#### Psalm 115

**Antiphon: You have loosened my bonds, Lord. A sacrifice of praise I will make to you, alleluia.**

 How can I repay the Lord

 for his goodness to me?

 The cup of salvation I will raise;

 I will call on the Lord’s name.

 My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

 before all his people.

 O precious in the eyes of the Lord

 is the death of his faithful.

 Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;

 you have loosened my bonds.

 A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

 I will call on the Lord’s name.

 My vows to the Lord I will fulfil

 before all his people,

 In the courts of the house of the Lord,

 in your midst, O Jerusalem.

 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

 and to the Holy Spirit,

 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

 world without end. Amen.

**Antiphon: You have loosened my bonds, Lord. A sacrifice of praise I will make to you, alleluia.**

#### Silence

#### Canticle Philippians 2:6-11

**Antiphon: The Son of God learned to obey through suffering,**

 **and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him, alleluia.**

 Though he was in the form of God,

 Jesus did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

 He emptied himself,

 taking the form of a servant,

 being born in human likeness.

 And being found in human form,

 he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,

 even death on a cross.

 Therefore God has highly exalted him

 and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,

 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

 in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

 and to the Holy Spirit,

 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

 world without end. Amen.

**Antiphon: The Son of God learned to obey through suffering,**

 **and he became the source of eternal salvation for all those who obey him, alleluia.**

#### Scripture Reading

*1 Peter 1:3-8*

Reader: Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

 who in his great mercy has given us a new birth,

 by raising Jesus Christ from the dead,

 so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance

 that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away,

 because it is being kept for you in the heavens.

 Through your faith, God’s power will guard you

 until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time.

 This is a cause of great joy for you,

 even though you may for a short time

 have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials;

 so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed,

 your faith will have been tested and proved like gold –

 only it is more precious than gold,

 which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire –

 and then you will have praise and glory and honour.

 You did not see him, yet you love him;

 and still without seeing him,

 you are already filled with a joy so glorious

 that it cannot be described, because you believe.

 The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### Homily

*The homilist could speak of the season of Easter as a time when we celebrate the joy of Christ’s resurrection and when we pray for a fresh outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The homilist could also speak of the plenary council planned for 2020 as an opportunity for us to reflect on our lives in the light of the gospel. The homilist could invite the people to pray for renewal for ourselves personally, for our local community, for our diocese and for the Church throughout Australia.*

#### Gospel Canticle

*Canticle of Mary (Luke 1:46-55)*

### (During the Canticle of Mary, all make the sign of the cross.

### The altar may be incensed, and then also the priest and people.)

**Antiphon: In the evening, Jesus came and stood among them and said,**

 **‘Peace be with you.’ Alleluia.**

Presider: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

 my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;

 for he 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:

 Holy is his Name.

 He has mercy on those who fear him

 in every generation.

 He has shown the strength of his arm,

 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

 and has lifted up the lowly.

 He has filled the hungry with good things,

 and has sent the rich away empty.

 He has come to the help of his servant Israel

 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

 the promise he made to our ancestors,

 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 ever shall be,

 world without end. Amen.

**Antiphon: In the evening, Jesus came and stood among them and said,**

 **‘Peace be with you.’ Alleluia.**

#### Intercessions

Presider: Let us pray to God the Father,

 who raised Jesus to life and exalted him at his own right hand.

Reader:Father, through the victory of the cross you have lifted up Jesus from the earth;

 may he draw all people to himself.

 Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader:Through the exaltation of Christ send your Spirit into the Church;

 make her the sign of unity for the whole human family.

 Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader:You have given us new life through water and the Spirit;

 keep us faithful to our baptism until we enter eternal life.

 Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader:Through the exaltation of your Son raise up the sorrowful,

 set prisoners free, heal the sick;

 may the whole world rejoice in your wonderful gifts.

 Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader:You nourished the faithful departed with Christ’s body and blood;

 let them share in his glory on the day of resurrection.

 Lord, hear us.

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

#### Lord’s Prayer

Presider: Let us unite all our prayers in the prayer that Jesus gave us:

**All: Our Father . . .**

#### Concluding Prayer

Presider: Gracious God, through your Son’s victory over death,

 you have opened for us the way to eternal life.

 Grant that as we celebrate his resurrection

 we may be renewed by your Holy Spirit

 and rejoice in your everlasting light.

 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

 who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

 one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

#### Sign of Peace

Presider: Before we conclude, let us take a moment to offer each other a sign of peace.

#### Blessing

Presider: May God bless us and keep us.

 May God smile upon us and be gracious to us.

 May God look upon us with kindness and grant us peace.

May almighty God bless us, the Father, + and the Son,

 and the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

#### Dismissal

Presider: Go in the peace of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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#### Possible Alternative for Opening Hymn

 **Mane Nobiscum Domine**

Lord Jesus Christ, abide with us,

now that the sun has run its course;

let hope not be obscured by night,

but may faith’s darkness be as light.

Lord Jesus Christ, grant us our peace,

and when the trials of earth shall cease,

grant us the morning light of grace,

the radiant splendour of your face.

Immortal, Holy, Threefold Light,

Yours be the kingdom, pow’r and might;

all glory be eternally

to you, life-giving Trinity!

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#### Possible Final Hymn

  **Day is Done**  James Quinn

Day is done, but love unfailing

dwells ever here;

shadows fall, but hope, prevailing,

calms ev’ry fear.

Loving Father, none forsaking,

take our hearts, of Love’s own making,

watch our sleeping, guard our waking,

be always near!

Dark descends, but light unending

shines through our night;

you are with us, ever lending

new strength to sight.

One in love, your truth confessing,

one in hope of heaven’s blessing,

may we see, in love’s possessing,

love’s endless light!

Eyes will close, but you unsleeping

watch by our side;

Death may come; in Love’s safe keeping

still we abide.

God of love, all evil quelling,

sin forgiving, fear dispelling,

stay with us, our hearts indwelling,

this eventide!

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#### Sources

*The Divine Office* (London & Glasgow: Collins, Sydney: E. J. Dwyer, and Dublin: Talbot, 1974); *The Psalms: A New Translation - Singing Version* (London: Collins, 1963); *Worship: The Liturgy of the Hours – Leader’s Edition* (Chicago: GIA, 1989). Musical settings of the responses, psalms, canticles and hymns can be located in *Catholic Worship Book* (Sydney: E. J. Dwyer & London: Collins Liturgical, 1985); *Gather Australia* (Chicago: GIA/Melbourne: NLMC Publications 1995), *Catholic Worship Book II* (Melbourne: Morning Star Publishing, 2016) or other sources.

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