

Evening Prayer

We read:

At the close of this day, I say blessed are you, Lord God, King of the universe, Sovereign of heaven and earth. Holy is your name.

O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you. (Psalm 89 v 8)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most-High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. (Psalm 91 v 1)

My desire, Lord God, is to rest within your shadow.
Amen.

We reflect:

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught because of what my enemy is saying, because of the threats of the wicked; for they bring down suffering on me and assail me in their anger.

- Bring the cry of your heart before the Lord....

As for me, I call to God, and the Lord saves me.

Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice. He rescues me unharmed from the battle waged against me, even though many oppose me. God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change - He will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God.

- Give thanks for the faithfulness of the Lord in times past in your life, and for the times He has rescued you.....

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken. But as for me, I trust in you.

- Declare your trust in the Lord for the future....
(selected verses from Psalm 55 (NIV), a Psalm of Lament)

We release:

Lord, thank you for journeying with me through this day. In order that I can rest in your shadow, I release the following into your safe keeping:

My heart cry.....

The laments I have carried today.....

The hopes I have for tomorrow....

My loved ones....

Myself....

The Blessing:

May the peace of God, our heavenly Father,
And the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep your hearts and minds within His love.

REFRAIN

And to Him be praise for His glorious reign;
From the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain-
Christ eternal, the King of Kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of His communion,
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

(Stuart Townend)

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Lament in a Season of Exile

We begin:

The Lord Reigns.

In this season of exile, we need to discover new ways to live daily life. Our usual daily patterns have been set aside, and we are searching for a 'new normal', to see us through this time of exile. This second daily office from CCHC reflects on lament, as our national focus sees daily death rates climbing. You are invited to use this, or to continue to use the 'Prayers in a Season of Exile'. Feel free to use the daily office flexibly, and include it within your own daily readings if you wish, or to use different readings than the verses suggested here.

Whichever daily office you choose to do, we remain in community as daily we seek the Lords face. We are called to be light at this time of global, national and personal turmoil, and to point to Father, the source of all comfort and in whom we trust.

We continue to walk by faith through this season of exile, knowing that the Lord reigns, we walk with humility, seeking only to respond to His leading as we lean on the Holy Spirit, we walk in love, for the Lord and for each other, and we walk in gratitude, maintaining a heart of thankfulness in all we do.

The Lord Reigns.

Morning Prayer

Greetings:

Grace and peace to us all from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God every time we remember each other. In all our prayers for each other, we pray with joy because of our partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. (Adapted from Phil 2 v 4-6 NIV)

We read: (or use your own daily reading)

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most-High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor fear the arrow that flies by day. You will not fear the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor fear the plague that destroys at midday. For He will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; (verses from Psalm 91(NIV))

We pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

- We pause to praise and worship Him....

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

- Spirit lead us as we pray 'Your will be done...'

Give us today our daily bread.

- Your provision Lord, where it is most needed....

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

- Pause to examine ourselves, and then know His release....

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

- Pray for strength in the fight....

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

- Celebrate the One who is the same yesterday, today and forever....

Amen.

We read:

Jesus said 'blessed are those that mourn, for they will be comforted'.

(verses from Matt 5 v 4 NIV)

We pray:

Father, the Psalms are full of lament, expressions of deep hurt and pain, spoken to you with raw emotion and sometimes with anger. Thank you that you allow us to rage and lament before you, and when we are exhausted with the raging, you remind us of your goodness and faithfulness in times past – your Covenant relationship with us which never fails.

Thank you for your Covenant faithfulness Lord, even in our times of lament.

Amen.

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We intercede for all who mourn

For those who mourn the death of loved ones from Covid-19, and from other causes....

And all who die with no one to mourn them....

For those that cannot attend the funerals of loved ones...

And those whose dying is unnoticed....

For those who grieve the loss of family and social gatherings.....

And those who have no one and rely on the kindness of strangers.....

For those whose livelihoods and businesses may be lost....

And those who cannot earn a living....

We mourn all that we have lost in this season of exile....

Remind us, Lord, that some have never known what we have lost....

Thank you, Lord for your promise:

'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" (Rev 21 v 4 NIV)

We pray in the name of Jesus, the source of our comfort and hope,

Amen

We declare:

Blessed be your name, Lord Jesus, when the sun shines, and when it doesn't, when all is well with my world – and when it is not. Blessed be your name. Amen

Midday Prayer

We read:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God. To comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendour.

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.

For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of His righteousness; as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. So the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. (verses from Isaiah 61 NIV)