

Additional Prayers

At the conclusion of the meeting the Officiant leads everyone in the closing prayer:

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Officiant: Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, let our prayer in your sight be as incense, the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. Give us grace to behold you, present in your Word and Sacraments, and to recognize you in the lives of those around us. Stir up in us the flame of that love which burned in the heart of your Son as he bore his passion, and let it burn in us to eternal life and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

A bishop or priest may use the following or some other blessing or grace.

The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. **Amen.**
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ
People: Thanks be to God!

(“Alleluia, alleluia” is added in the Easter Season).

For the Church

Gracious and loving God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where it in any thing is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son our Savior. **Amen.**

For a Church Meeting

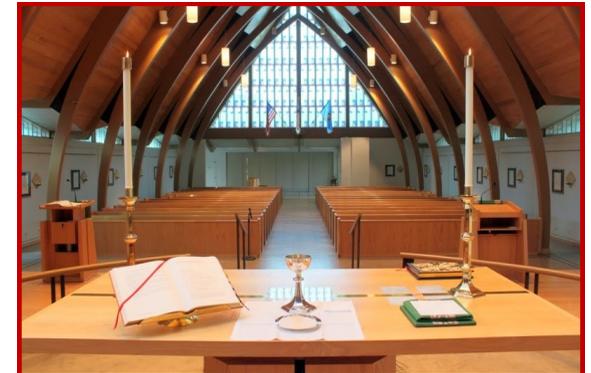
Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take council for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Saint Mark

Almighty God, by the hand of Mark the evangelist you have given to your Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God: We thank you for this witness, and pray that we may be firmly grounded in its truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Saint Mark's
Episcopal Church

Columbus, Ohio



Vestry Devotions





An Order of Worship for the Evening

Officiant:

I invite us all now to reflect and share briefly a way that God has touched our lives since we gathered last together.

Silence is kept for a few moments

Members share something for which they are particularly thankful in the last few weeks. When all have concluded the Officiant continues with one of the following opening sentences:

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

People: Thanks be to God.

or

In place of the above, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost:

Officiant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

or

In Lent and on other penitential occasions:

Officiant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People: His mercy endures for ever.

One of the following is then read:

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the good you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:14-16

or

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus’ sake. For the same God who said, “Out of darkness let light shine,” has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation—the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

Officiant: Let us pray.

The Officiant reads one of the following prayers:

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

or

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

People:

O gracious Light, pure brightness of the ever living Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The candle is now lit. There is a moment of silence.

People:

Dear Lord, when we agreed to serve on Vestry we answered Your call. Help us to feel closer to You when we are serving. Remind us that as we carry-out our duties we should seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves and help us to respect the dignity of every human being.

Be with us as we strive to base our decisions on Christ’s teaching and to grow into the role of being spiritual leaders. In your name we pray, AMEN.

Officiant:

Let us now remember before the Lord our parish family and those in our lives who are in special need of prayer as we gather this evening.

We may also uplift areas of our parish life which are of concern at this time.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear now our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and guide us by your Holy Spirit to discern your heart and mind in all that we do this night; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Officiant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Vestry now takes council for the renewal and mission of the Church.