

Order for Baptist Ministry

Evening Prayer - Sundays and Easter

Becoming present to God

Through a sign of attentiveness
like lighting a candle and/ or

+ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

or

Later on Sunday,
two, slowly walking,
tell their companion,
'Jesus is dead.'

Sitting at supper,
warmed by his presence,
they know their master
as he breaks the bread.

J. Woolford (BPW 249)

or

**The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at your behest;
to you our morning hymns ascended
your praise shall hallow now our rest.**

John Ellerton (1826–93)

Celebrating the presence of God

We eavesdrop as two disciples travel the road to Emmaus, hearts full of questions,
bewildered and sad;
we listen to Jesus as Scriptures are broken as food for the soul, making us glad;
news of God's promise to make all things new
through the life of the Saviour who died and now lives.

**Draw near to us, also, for the night approaches. We welcome you to stay with us, too.
Break open the Scriptures as you broke the bread,
that we might recognise you afresh, and our hearts burn within us.**

You meet us behind locked doors,
afraid of the shadows,
and breath your Spirit upon our lives

So that we might be empowered again to go and bear witness to your risen power and endless love.

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

Acknowledging our humanity

When our hearts remain entombed
Unwrap us from the shroud of our fears.

When our doubts overwhelm us
may we see your wounds afresh and believe.

When we return to our old lives, and gather nothing,
Meet us on the lakeside, and feed us again.

When we have lived today as though you remain just bones in a tomb, forgive us and meet us with words of hope and food for eternal life.

Listening for the Word of God -

From The Common Lectionary for Evening Prayer, after which a period of silence is held.

Canticle – Optional

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁰

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

²¹Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

²²**When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,**

“Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

John 20:19–23.

Or,

¹⁸But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead
the first fruits of those who have died.

²²For as all die in Adam,
so all will be made alive in Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20, 22.

Reflecting on our roots

**We seek to be attentive
to Word and Spirit
contemplating in silence and conversation
in stillness and in service
the Triune God —
known and unknown
mystery and revelation —
present in Christ
within us
between us
and around us.**

Bringing our concerns

We pray for those who are bewildered, with hearts full of sadness and questions,
In your mercy, grant them presence.

We pray for those who are afraid, locked in the prison house of their anxieties,
In your mercy, grant them your peace.

We pray for those who are tempted to give up on faith and return to an old way of life,
In your mercy, meet them with food for the journey

We pray for those who have failed and denied you by their words or silence,
In your mercy, assure them of the new beginning and fresh calling.

We pray for those who are fearful of losing faith, or ashamed of their questions,
In your mercy, hold them fast

Time for silent prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Going to love and rest

Lord, let this your servant
now rest in peace.
My eyes have seen your glory
a light to all peoples
and the hope of the ages.

**Strengthen and renew us
that upon the waking morrow
we may serve you
in the power of your Spirit
and to the glory of your name. Amen**

Optional:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.