**Order for Baptist Ministry**

**Evening Prayer**

**Mondays & Pentecost**

**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

Breathe on me, breath of God,

fill me with life anew,

that I may love what thou dost love,

and do what thou wouldst do.

Edwin Hatch (1835–1889)

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**

After the tongues of fire

and rushing wind,

the nine o-clock sermon and

the crowd's eager response;

After the baptisms and joyful surprise,

what did that evening bring?

**Quiet joy and happy exhaustion?**

**Countless conversations**

**and tired arms and backs?**

**The Spirit's presence in the silence and the telling of stories and testimony?**

Yes, and more:

The birth of a new age, and new day, and new task.

The recognition of the presence of Jesus

in the Spirit's anointing

and the fellowship of believers.

**And now, after millennia have passed,**

**the story expanded, and the church grown beyond imagining on that first Pentecost,**

**we come too,**

**tired from the days' ministry,**

**joyful at its surprises of faith,**

**rooted in the Spirit's presence**

**with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts and on our lips.**

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

**Acknowledging our humanity**

Spirit of Christ, where we trust ourselves and keep you distant,

**Forgive us**

Spirit of God, where we reject your gift of life in its divine fullness

**Forgive us**

Spirit of truth, where we listen to the lies rather than your words

**Forgive us**

**Come afresh and touch our lips with your fire; our hearts with your love; and our minds with the gospel of grace and truth. Amen.**

**Listening for the Word of God -**

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

**Canticle –** Optional

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire  
and lighten with celestial fire;  
thou the anointing Spirit art,  
who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.

Thy blessed unction from above  
is comfort, life, and fire of love;  
enable with perpetual light  
the dullness of our mortal sight.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,  
and thee, of both, to be but one;  
that through the ages all along  
this may be our endless song:

Praise to thine eternal merit,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

After R. Maurus (c. 776–856)

trans. J Cosin (1594–1671)

**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**

At the close of a busy day, grant your presence to all who are weary.

**In your mercy, grant them your protection.**

At the close of a sad day, grant your comfort to all who mourn,

**In your mercy, grant them peace.**

At the close of a happy day, bless all whose bright laughter has eased the burden of others,

**In your mercy, give them fulness of joy.**

For all who have started a new venture, begun a fresh journey, and those who have laid down old responsibilities,

**In your mercy, grant them the Spirit' guidance and heaven's hope.**

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.

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