

A Celtic Evening Liturgy

Adapted from the Iona Community

For this service, you will need:

- A candle
- A Bible
- A cross

The Opening Sentences

One Come to us this night, O God.

All Come to us with light.

Light a candle in a central place.

One Speak to us this night, O God.

All Speak to us your truth.

Place a Bible in a central place.

One Dwell with us this night, O God.

All Dwell with us in love.

Place a cross in a central place.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

One Thanks be to you, O Christ,

**All for the many gifts you have bestowed on us,
each day and night, each sea and land,
each weather fair, each calm, each wild.**

One Each night may we remember your mercy
given so gently and generously.

**All Each thing we have received, from you it came;
each thing for which we hope, from your love it will come;
each thing we enjoy, it is of your bounty;
each thing we ask, come of your disposing.**

One O God, from whom each thing that is, freely flows,

**All Grant that no tie over strict, no tie over dear,
may be between ourselves and this world.
Amen.**

The Evening Psalm

Psalm 42

One O God, as these words are read,

All in our hearts may we feel your presence.

One As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

All My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

One When shall I come and behold the face of God?

**All My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me continually, "Where is your God?"**

One These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:

how I went with the throng,
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

**All Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.**

One My soul is cast down within me;

therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

**All Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts;
all your waves and your billows have gone over me.**

One By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

**All I say to God, my rock, "Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?"**

One As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually, "Where is your God?"

**All Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.**

A Time of Quiet

The Evening Lesson

Mark 4:35-41

One O God, as these words are read.

All In our hearts may we feel your presence.

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

A Time of Quiet

The Affirmation of Faith

One We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal God of life,
We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal God of love.

**All We believe, O God and Maker of all creation,
that you are the creator of the high heavens,
that you are the creator of the deep seas,
that you are the creator of the stable earth.**

One We believe, O God of all the peoples,
that you created our souls and set their warp.
that you created our bodies and gave them breath,
that you made us in your own image.

**All We give you our worship with our whole lives,
we give you our assent with our whole power,
we give you our existence with our whole mind,
we give you our being with our whole desire.**

The Prayers of Concern

One O Christ, kindle in our hearts within
a flame of love to our neighbor,
to our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all.

**All O Christ of the poor and yearning,
from the humblest thing that lives
to the name that is highest of all,
kindle in our hearts within a flame of love.**

the prayer continues . . .

**One We are placing our souls and our bodies
under your guarding this night, O Christ.**

All O Son of the tears, of the wounds, of the piercings,
may your cross this night be shielding all.

The Blessing

One Be the great God between your shoulders
to protect you in your going out and your coming in,
be the Son of Mary near your heart,
and be the perfect Spirit upon you pouring.

All Amen.