

This Introduction comes from *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* p29 a slightly different version is given in *Common Worship: Daily Prayer*. It provides the official guide to leading the service. You may like to highlight matters relating to preparing the service.

Morning and Evening Prayer on Sunday

¶ Introduction

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world. By the fourth century, if not earlier, morning and evening had emerged as the pre-eminent hours for the offering of this sacrifice of praise. They have remained so ever since, especially on Sundays when the Church commemorates both the first day of creation and the day of Christ's resurrection. These orders of service are examples of forms which comply with the provisions of A Service of the Word and are intended to help Christians of our own day take their part in this privilege and duty which belongs to all God's priestly people. They may be celebrated in a variety of different ways, for examples, as:

- ¶ a simple form of prayer at the very beginning or end of the day;
- ¶ the Gathering and Liturgy of the Word for another service which is to follow immediately;
- ¶ the principal service of the day.

To meet diverse needs such as these, they are very flexible in arrangement. The central core, however, consists of the Liturgy of the Word interwoven with canticles to supply the response of praise, followed by intercessory prayer in one form or another. A variety of alternative endings is provided in the form of thanksgivings for

different aspects of the Church's life. Whenever possible, the services should include some singing, especially of the Gospel Canticle, which is the climax of the morning or evening praise for the work of God in Christ. If desired, metrical paraphrases may be substituted for any of the biblical canticles, and other hymns and songs may be added at appropriate points.

Notes to Morning and Evening Prayer¹

In the services and the notes square brackets indicate parts of the service which may be omitted.

1 Hymns and Songs

Hymns and songs may be sung at appropriate points in the service, and metrical paraphrases may be used in place of the biblical canticles.

2 Sentences of Scripture

Alternative sentences of Scripture appropriate to the day or the season may be substituted for those in these orders.

3 Principal Services and Principal Holy Days

An authorized confession and absolution, and the Apostles' Creed or another Creed or authorized Affirmation of Faith, and a sermon, must be included in Morning or Evening Prayer when it is the principal service on a Sunday or Principal Holy Day, but may be omitted at other times.

4 Opening Canticle at Morning Prayer

The following are suitable for use as the opening canticle at Morning Prayer:

Benedicite, A Song of Creation, especially in Ordinary Time;

¹ *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* p.57-58
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Jubilate, A Song of Joy, especially in festal seasons;
The Easter Anthems, especially during the Easter season;
Venite, A Song of Triumph, especially during Advent and Lent.

5 Old and New Testament Canticles

The following are suitable as Old Testament canticles at Morning Prayer and New Testament canticles at Evening Prayer, especially in the seasons indicated:

	Morning	Evening
Advent	A Song of the Wilderness	A Song of the Spirit
Christmas	A Song of the Messiah	A Song of Redemption
Epiphany	A Song of the New Jerusalem	A Song of Praise
Lent	A Song of Humility	A Song of Christ the Servant
Easter	The Song of Moses and Miriam	A Song of Faith
Pentecost	A Song of Ezekiel	A Song of God's Children
Ordinary Time	A Song of David	A Song of the Lamb

6 Opening Hymn and Canticle at Evening Prayer

Phos hilaron (A Song of the Light) is a suitable opening hymn. Verses from either Psalm 104 or Psalm 141 are suitable opening canticles.

7 Te Deum

The canticle Te Deum, A Song of the Church, may be used at Morning or Evening Prayer immediately before the Conclusion.

8 Thanksgivings

Morning or Evening Prayer, one of the Thanksgivings may follow the sermon or, where a sermon is included in the Thanksgiving, the Gospel canticle. The confession and

absolution at the beginning of Morning and Evening Prayer should be omitted where penitence is included in the Thanksgiving for the Word. If the Thanksgiving for the Healing Ministry of the Church is to include anointing, the minister must be authorized for this ministry as required by Canon B 37.

9 Intercessions

These should normally be broadly based, expressing a concern for the whole of God's world and the ministry of the whole Church. Nevertheless, where occasion demands, they may be focused on more particular and local needs. Where another service follows immediately, they may be brief.

10 Morning and Evening Collects

If it is desired to use the Morning and Evening Collects, they should not be added after the Collect of the Day, but should be used before the Blessing or other Ending.

11 Commemoration of the Resurrection

The Order for Morning Prayer may be arranged as a commemoration of the resurrection (which is especially appropriate during the Easter season) by use of the following:

[Opening Canticle: Benedicite, A Song of Creation]

Psalmody: Psalm 118.14-29

First Reading: Genesis 1.1-5; Exodus 14.21-31; 1 Corinthians 15.1-8; or Colossians 3.1-4]

Old Testament Canticle: The Song of Moses and Miriam

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28.1-10; Mark 16.1-8; Mark 16.9-20; Luke 24.1-9; John 20.1-10; John 20.11-18; or John 21.1-14

New Testament Canticle: The Easter Anthems

Structure

Preparation

- ¶ an **opening response**
- ¶ an optional introduction
- ¶ A Form of Penitence (optional if not the main service of the day)

One or more of the following may conclude the preparation

- ¶ a **prayer of thanksgiving**
- ¶ a suitable **hymn**
- ¶ an **opening canticle**
- ¶ an **opening prayer**, if desired

The Word of God

- ¶ **psalmody**
- ¶ First **reading from Holy Scripture**
- ¶ an **OT canticle** (mornings) / **NT canticle** (evenings) is said
- ¶ Second **reading from Holy Scripture**
- ¶ a **responsory**, or song if desired
- ¶ the **Gospel Canticle Benedictus** (mornings)/ **Magnificat** (evenings)
- ¶ Sermon (optional if not the main service of the day)
- ¶ Creed or affirmation of faith (optional if not the main service)

Prayers

- ¶ **intercessions** and, especially in the evening, **thanksgivings**
- ¶ the **Collect of the day**, or the prayer which is printed
- ¶ the **Lord's Prayer**

Conclusion

- ¶ a **blessing** or the **Grace**
- ¶ a concluding **response**, if desired
- ¶ the **Peace** may replace or follow the **Conclusion**

Purpose

Preparation to unite us into one worshipping community

an opening greeting focuses the congregation on God

the congregation are reminded of the purpose for the service
faced with God all admit their failings and receive forgiveness

the congregation responds in thankfulness to God's forgiveness

- } these all unite the congregation at the start of the service
- } in praise and glory to God.
- } they introduce the theme of the service, set the tone
- } and draw us into corporate worship from our individual concerns.

God's Word is taught from Scripture

the Psalms are both God's word to us and our prayers to God

- } God's word is spoken to the congregation
- } in acknowledgement of having heard the word
- } a canticle is recited as a response
- } The canticles are biblical prayers or praises

the congregation responds to all readings with praise from the NT

the readings are explained, pondered and related to our lives

the core elements of the faith are acknowledged

Prayers are offered to God

having heard God, the congregation now speaks to God

the collect is a summary prayer that collects up everyone's prayers

the prayer given by Jesus concludes the prayers

Conclusion

the congregation hears God's blessing as they leave

they may respond to the blessing

they may acknowledge each other as the body of Christ

Leading Morning and Evening Prayer

If you are asked to lead Morning or Evening Prayer the following checklist may help you prepare:

<p>1. Pray For the service, the people attending, your preparation and all those involved in making the service flow smoothly</p>	
<p>2. Discover the readings for the service Use the lectionary or find out local custom https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/lectionary</p>	
<p>3. Choose the key theme for the service This may come from the readings, the Church's Year, local or national celebrations</p>	
<p>4. Choose hymns If you are responsible for choosing hymns find some that match your theme. If hymns are chosen by someone else then find out what has been chosen so that you weave them into the service appropriately <i>(Session 3)</i></p>	
<p>5. Go through the service and make your choices (these may be limited by the church's custom or by a pre-printed service book. Enquire if necessary) You may find it helpful to mark up or print your own copy with instructions and choices written in https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/churchs-year/lectionary</p>	

<p>worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/service-word/service-word-morning-evening-prayer-night-prayer#ch6c or try the Diocesan Worship Hub: https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry-for-mission/training/lay-training/lwa/lwa-hub/</p>	
<p>6. Intercessions If you are responsible for intercessions then draft appropriate intercessions or communicate the themes and reading to the person responsible <i>(Session 2)</i></p>	
<p>7. Sermon Slot You may have an authorised preacher or you may fill this yourself. This may be as simple as a time of silence to reflect on the readings. <i>(Session 3 will help you with ways to do this)</i></p>	
<p>8. Collection Will there be a collection? If so when and do you need to receive it and pray over it?</p>	
<p>9. Practicalities Check on the practicalities for the service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opening the church • any setting up, candles to be lit, chairs moved • sidespeople to hand out books • are there banns of marriage to read • are there notices to be given • ensure the sound system will work 	