*Evening Prayer*

*Note to CG: There are two forms for the ending of this service, one for late afternoon and the other for the evening. Delete what’s inappropriate.*

A basic resource for this service can be found in *BOS* (the “red book”), pp. 41 ff.

For the Feast of Saint Luke, see *The Book of Feasts,*  pp. 206 ff.

* *With the lighting of a solitary candle or oil lamp, we open Evening Prayer with a service of light. A dialog from scripture reminds us that evening prayer* ***is*** *prayer to Christ, the light of the world.*
* *We give thanks for the Light of Christ reminding us of the paschal mystery through which we are incorporated into Christ’s incarnation, life, death, resurrection and coming again.*

Setting

* The visual setting should reflect the liturgical focus of the service in the Light of Christ, celebrating the paschal mystery of death and resurrection.
* An icon of Saint Luke may be prominently displayed with a candle or lamp in front or nearby (already lighted).
* An unlit single candle or lamp is on a stand or on the Lord’s Table unless a Vesper Candle is to be carried in during the Entrance of the Light.

Preparation

* Avoid last minute preparations in the presence of the community.
* A half hour of corporate silence may be scheduled ahead of the service in consultation with the chaplain general.
* In any event, keep silence starting 15 minutes before the service is to begin.
* A prelude may call the community to praise and prayer later in this period.
* The worship guides quietly take their places during this time.

*THE SERVICE*

Entrance of the Light

* While the dialog is spoken, the acolyte carries in a lighted Vesper candle or the flame of a lighting wand with which the Vesper Candle or lamp is then lighted.
* A sung version of this dialog is provided in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke,* Worship Resource 63.

Hymn - By word or gesture, the community is invited to stand.

* An opening hymn for this service adapted from a text by Ambrose of Milan is on p. 201 of *LBF.*
* A setting of the hymn of light to be chanted is found in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke,*  p. 42.
* Hymn settings are found in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke,* Worship Resources 65 and 66 (Note that the Haugen setting will need to be listed with OneLicense permissions).

Thanksgiving for the Light – the community remains standing.

* The prayer is introduced with “The Holy One be with you. **And also with you.**  Let us pray.”
* Prayers of thanksgiving for the light are found in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke,* p. 42 and Worship Resource 64.
* The community is seated at the conclusion of the prayer.

Prayer of Awareness and Words of Assurance –

* Ruth Duck’s text is on p. 43 of *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke*
* Other prayers of Awareness or Confession may be found in Worship Resources 154-157.
* Words of Assurance may be found in Worship Resources 159-161.
* Resources from other sources may be used or written.

Psalter – See General Guidelines for specific information. The community is seated.

Silence

* This should last at least a full minute.
* The anxiety for those for whom this is a new experience and who may wonder why “nothing is happening” may be helped by extending an invitation such as “Let us keep silence together.”

Scripture

* For this reading which is understood as a teaching lection, the community remains seated even if the reading is from a gospel.
* The lection may be provided for you by the chaplain general.
* At the conclusion of the reading(s) and before the heart words (introduced by “Hear what the spirit is saying”), the reader may say “Holy Wisdom, holy Word,” to which the community responds **Thanks be to God!**

Canticle of Mary

* Since this canticle is understood as the proclamation of the gospel for this office, the community stands.
* The following options are available in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke:*
  + Chanted dialogically to psalm tone three, p. 45.
  + Set to a metrical hymn tune; see Worship Resources 70-73.
  + Four-part simplified chant, see Worship Resources 190-191.

Reading

* A time for listening and learning together from a brief reading.
* This is NOT the time for a homily or an extensive reading.
* Options available include:
  + Text of a relevant hymn
  + Teachings of a spiritual guide
  + Reflections on the meaning of the day.

Silence for Reflection

Prayers

This time of prayer is introduced with the dialog:

“The Holy One is with you. **And also with you.**  Let us pray.”

Shared Prayer Options

* + A bidding prayer – see Worship Resource 166 or 168 in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke* or p. 131 in *A Lukan Book of Hours.*
  + Invitation to the community to share aloud their joys, thanksgivings or concerns, concluding by praying: “Merciful God” to which the community responds **“Hear our prayer.”**
  + A litany such as Worship Resource 167 in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke.*

Stated Prayers for this Office - found on p. 46 of *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke.*

* May be prayed by various persons seated in the community
* May be prayed by one or more of the worship guides
* Prayers from other resources may be used

Intercessions for the Order of Saint Luke - found on p. 47 of *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke.* This may be followed by the Collect for the Order, prayed in unison.

[Optional Collect of Commemoration]

* See resources for the sanctoral cycle in *A Lukan Book of Feasts,* pp. 219-225
* Additional resources may be found in *For All the Saints.*

The Lord’s Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

* When the community is gathered, we recommend that the Lord’s Prayer be sung at Morning and Evening Prayer.
* Five settings are provided in Worship Resources 8 - 12 in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke.*

Concluding Collect

* See the one at the bottom of p. 47 of *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke.*
* A collect from other sources may be used, or a new one written.

Hymn – By word or gesture, the community is invited to stand to sing a hymn.

[Going Forth

* The community remains standing.
* Blessings and Commendations can be found on p. 48 and Worship Resources 59, 88 174-182 in *The Book of Offices and Services of the Order of Saint Luke.*

or

[Abbot’s Commendation and Blessing

When this is the last office of the day, the abbot may be invited to give a commendation before the dismissal.

The community is then seated for a **time of reflection guided by music.**

Dismissal

* Given by a deacon or a layperson emphasizing the bridge between the community at prayer and the community living our commission in the world.
* May be spoken by someone seated in the congregation.
* Our lived experience with this office has made us aware that something is missing from the dismissal. We recommend that an additional sentence be added such as:

“Go in peace to walk the way of Jesus, seeking justice and compassion with the whole family of God. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**”

Regarding the Ending of the Service:

Because we honor the music after the commendation, we are seated to let it speak to us. It seemed strange to be “sent forth” and then be seated!! Our alternative is to separate the commendation and the dismissal.