

Morning Prayer, Rite II

Our hope is that you feel confident when leading worship! Your ability to be prayerfully present as you lead the congregation will be your greatest gift to them—far more than getting everything right.

The Book of Common Prayer is full of options that can vary and enrich Morning Prayer; this service order simplifies that range of choices so that the order of the service is as clear as possible. There are directions throughout to guide you.

Leading Morning Prayer will require preparation.

Look through the service order and you'll notice a few decisions to make ahead of time:

- Will you include the confession of sin?
- Will you lead the contemporary or traditional language Lord's Prayer?
- Which of the possible Collects do you want to include?
- Will you close the prayers with the General Thanksgiving or add the Prayer of St. Chrysostom?

Explore the place where you will lead before the service. Where will you sit? Sit there. Where will you stand so that you can be seen and heard? Stand there. You've probably seen worship countless times in your church, but move through the words and postures of the liturgy yourself in the space. You'll notice things about the liturgy that you may not reading it at home or worshipping in the congregation. And, you'll feel more confident when the congregation is gathered.

Bold, black text indicates parts spoken by the leader.

Italicized text indicates instructions.

Opening Sentence

Stand facing the people and say the opening sentence of scripture

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Confession of Sin

Then, say

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Invite the people to kneel.

Consider allowing a period of silence for confession. Then, say

Most merciful God,

All we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.
Amen.

Still kneeling, then say

**Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life.
Amen.**

Invite the people to stand.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Then, say

Lord, open our lips.

All And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.

The Venite or Jubilate

Introduce either the Venite or Jubilate. If these are to be spoken, they are found on page 82.

The Psalm

Ask the people to sit, and go to your seat.

When Morning Prayer is the principal service on Sunday, it makes sense to use the Sunday lectionary readings. The reader needs to know that the Psalm will come first in this structure!

At the end of the Psalm, all say the Gloria Patri

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

The First Reading

The reader introduces each reading by saying "A reading from *book, chapter*". After the reading, the reader may say "The Word of the Lord" and the people respond "Thanks be to God."

Canticle

The rubric calls for a canticle following **each reading**.

The Second Reading

Canticle

The Gospel Reading

When we're praying Morning Prayer as a congregation, a reader should also read the lesson from the Gospels. The reader should announce the reading in the same way they announced the previous readings, and the people should respond in the same way.

Sermon*

The Prayerbook gives three options for where the sermon can fit. Here, the sermon is a response directly connected to the hearing of the Scripture. Morning Prayer still requires a canticle following each reading so, it seems the proper order here would be Gospel lesson / sermon / canticle.

The sermon could also be located "at the time of the hymn or anthem after the collects" (see: p. 6).

Canticle

The Apostles Creed

After the last canticle, introduce the Apostle's Creed.

Together, we now stand and say the Apostles' Creed, found on p. 96 of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Apostles Creed is a hinge in the service between hearing and responding to the Word, and the Prayers. Since you will have been flipping around singing a canticle, this is a spot to have marked in your book.

The Creed can be important landmark in your mental map of the liturgy. Especially for the leader, the next elements of the service all flow one directly into the other. You'll mostly be standing and actively leading from here out.

The Prayers

The prayers begin with a dialogue between the leader and the congregation. You can engage the people here with your eyes and your posture. Notice what's happening: you're looking at each other, praying for each other that the Lord be with you.

Facing the people, say

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven

All 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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

or **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
All hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages

Next is a series of responsive prayers called Suffrages. Say each versicle, marked with a "V" in the Prayerbook, and the people will respond. There are two options, both of which echo prayers found in the first Book of Common Prayer.

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

The Collects

*Then, pray **one or more** of the collects found on pages 98-100.*

Collects are prayers that gather up people who have been invited to enter prayer, drawing them toward a particular awareness, intention, or hope.

Choosing which collects to pray is a matter of discernment for the leader. Decide, mark, and practice the ones you'll use.

Including the Collect of the Day unites us with the wider Church in a shared, prayerful focus, and locates us in the Church's year. However, the Collect of the Day is printed elsewhere in the Prayerbook (BCP 217-236). Just be prepared to hop over to the Collect of the Day in the Prayerbook or in your leaflet, and then right back to the Morning Prayer collects.

Allow a measure of silence for prayer between each collect. Recall that earlier dialogue with the people that began, "Let us pray." The leader invited the people to begin their work of prayer, and we can trust that the people of God are doing just that exactly when we aren't speaking. The essential pattern of the prayers in Morning Prayer is this: an invitation to pray; spoken prayer in the words Jesus taught us; prayer focused by the suffrages; then our prayer is gathered up and shaped by collects. The prayer is continuous.

A Collect for Sundays

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Collect for the Renewal of Life

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness while it was day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Collect for Peace

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Collect for Grace

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Collect for Guidance

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A Collect for Mission

*Add **one** of the prayers for mission—there are three options on pages 100-101.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

or this

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

or this

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name.

Amen.

Hymn*

After collects, the Prayerbook suggests there could be a hymn. This also seems to be where the framers of Prayerbook thought a number of other elements could be plugged in.

And, as we mentioned above, the **sermon** could work here prior to the hymn.

This is also where a **collection of offerings** fits best. Just before that invitation is a point in the service when **announcements** could be made.

You can invite the gathering of offerings with one of the Offertory sentences from the Rite II Eucharist (BCP, 376-377), such as

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

After the collection, receive the offering plates and simply place them on the altar. This could be a simple action, without a doxology or special ceremony, because it's distinct from the *offertory* of the Eucharist, when we present all our gifts, including money, bread, wine, and ourselves to be gathered up into the offering of Christ.

After making provision for a hymn, the Prayerbook says that “**authorized intercessions and thanksgivings** may be offered.” This could be a time to use or adapt one of the Prayers of the People forms from the Rite II Eucharist. Or, this could be an opportunity for people to pray freely as they’re moved. In that case, the leader could bid prayers with words like:

Please offer your own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving, silently or aloud.

If you offer space for free prayer, give people time for needs and thanksgivings to rise in their awareness. When you sense that you’ve given enough time, begin either the General Thanksgiving or A Prayer of St. Chrysostom.

***The General Thanksgiving
A Prayer of St. Chrysostom***

As leader, you can now add either one or both of these two prayers. Both are beautiful and, for many, deeply resonant. These prayers will probably need words of introduction, since people have been in prayer or in the hymnal (and they’ve lost their place in the Prayerbook). So, orient them again, saying

We now pray the General Thanksgiving, found on p. 101 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

All we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us
and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Then, if you wish to include the prayer of St Chrysostom, you can simply say

A prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God,

All you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Now, draw worship to a close, saying

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

And, last, The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.**

All Amen.