

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (1:3–4, 4:10, 5:15, 8:7, 9:8, 10:5, 12:9–10)

Father of all mercies,

God of all comfort:

Let us share in Christ's sufferings

So we may share in His comfort.

Comfort us in our affliction

So we may comfort others.

Let us learn to be weak

So You will be strong in us.

Let us boast of our weakness

So Your grace will be enough for us.

Let us stop living for ourselves

So we may live for Christ.

Let us carry the death of Jesus within us

So the life of Jesus may be in us too.

Let Your grace abound in us

So we may abound in good works.

Let our every thought be captive to Christ

So we may excel in faith, knowledge, and love.

This and all other needful things we pray

In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

A final hymn may be sung

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL (5:6–9; 13:11–14)

Always be of good courage, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Whether at home or away, we make it our aim to please God.

Finally, sisters and brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. And the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a holy kiss (13:12).

A collection may be taken for churches in need (8:1–15).

II Corinthians Vespers

GREETING AND CONFESSION (1:2; 5:10, 17, 20)

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

And also with you.

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive our due for what we have done in the body, whether good or evil.

Silence for self-examination.

Do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? I implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For in Christ you are a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Candles may be lit during the Hymn of Light.

HYMN OF LIGHT (4:6; 5:19–21)

Let Light Shine out of Darkness



1, 4 "Let light shine out of dark - ness," said God on the first day.



"Shine in our hearts your glo - ry," to Him we dai - ly pray.



This same light shines for - e - ver from Je - sus' ho - ly face,



For in him dwells the Fath - er's own life and love and grace.

2. "Let light shine out of darkness":
the Father's first command.
The Word brought forth the daylight
to shine upon the land.
And now by God's own Spirit
we see the endless light
That is Christ Jesus' glory
unhidden from our sight.

3. "Let light shine out of darkness,"
we humbly ask of him
Who though he knew no evil
was made to be our sin.
The Father reconciles us
since Christ has died for all;
We who have died with Jesus
now answer to his call.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (1:21–22, 9:15)

God our Father, You establish us in Christ, anoint us, put Your seal upon us,
and give us Your Spirit in our hearts.

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift. Amen.

Incense may be burned during the psalmody.

PSALMODY (2:15; 6:2, 16, 18)

Aroma of Christ



We are the a - ro - ma, we are the a - ro - ma, we are the a - ro - ma of



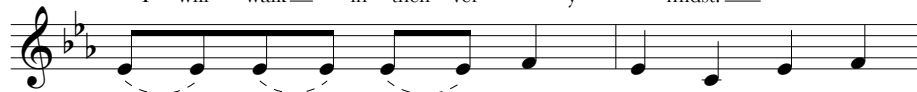
Christ; the fra - grance of the know - ledge of Christ, to God, to God.



"I have pro - mised I will wel - come you; "At a fav - or - a - ble time I have lis - tened, "I will make My dwel - ling be a mong them;



I will be a fath - er un - to you. in the day of sal - va - tion I helped you." I will walk in their ver - y midst.



You shall be My daugh - ters and sons," thus says the Now is the ac - cept - a - ble time, now is the I will be their on - ly God, and



LORD God al - migh - ty. "I have pro - mised I will wel - come day of sal - va - tion. "At a fav - or - a - ble time I have they will be My peo - ple. I will make My dwel - ling be a



you; I will be a fath - er un - to you. lis - tened, in the day of sal - va - tion I helped you." mong them; I will walk in their very midst.



You shall be My daugh - ters and sons." Now is the ac - cept - a - ble time. I will be their on - ly God."

Psalm 2, 16, 22, 72, 110, 116, or 118 may be chanted or read responsively. Another hymn may be sung. A Scripture lesson is read.

ACCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE (1:19–20)

The Son of God was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

For all the promises of God find their Yes in him.

That is why we utter our Amen to God through him.

In Christ's name: Amen.

CANTICLE (4:7–9; 6:8–10)

We have this treasure ' in clay jars—

The might is God's and ' not our own.

We are afflicted ' but not crushed

Perplexed but ' still we hope

We are persecuted ' but not lost

Struck down but ' not destroyed

Taken for impostors ' and yet true

Seem to be strangers ' yet are known

Look like we are dying ' yet we live

Always being punished ' yet not killed

Thought to be in mourning ' we rejoice

Appearing to be poor ' we make rich

They look on us and see ' empty hands

But in Christ we ' have all things.