Resources for a Silent Vigil of Prayer

(Please leave this packet in the church for the use of others)

Scripture

Psalm 27

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold
of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall
stumble and fall.

3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against
me, yet I will be confident.

4 One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all
the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the
cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

6 Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

8 "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have
been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

10 If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.

11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

12 Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against
me, and they are breathing out violence.

13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake
in the heart of the sea;

12 On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

13 You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

14 Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

15 When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

16 With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Psalm 139:1-13

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.

5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.

7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"

12 even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

13 For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

John 20

1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.'

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature
is being renewed day by day. 17For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an
eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18because we look not at what can be seen but
at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is
eternal.

1 John 3:1-7; 4:9-21

3 1See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and
that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
2Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What
we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.
3And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 4Everyone who
commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5You know that he was revealed
to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6No one who abides in him sins; no one who
sins has either seen him or known him. 7Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone
who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

4 9God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so
that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved
us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us
so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one
another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. 13By this we know that we abide
in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do
testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those
who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and
believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in
God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may
have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is
no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and
whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved us.
20Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who
do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have
not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love
their brothers and sisters also

Prayers

Prayers for the sick

O Christ our Lord, our good physician and our salvation: Look upon all thy faithful people who are sick, and who love to call upon thy name; take their souls into thy keeping, and vouchsafe to deliver them from all sickness and infirmity; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Adapted from Mozarabic Sacramentary
Prayers for Every Occasion, ed. Frank Colquhoun, 1974, p. 239

For our parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BCP, 1979, p. 817

Devotional Aids/Mantras*/Meditations

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
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 Hail Mary (a popular prayer and mantra dating back to the 6th c. AD in the East and the 11th c. AD in the West based on Luke 1:28,42)

Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

The Jesus Prayer (a 5th c. AD Eastern mantra)

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy.

*Mantras are designed through repetition to carry the inner-most depths of our prayers. Like incense rising to heaven, mantras provide a vehicle for our thoughts and feelings without the use of direct language. For twenty-one centuries, Christians have used mantras in both private devotion and public liturgies as a means of sharpening the focus of prayer when words inadequately express the weight of one's intercessions.