

How to Read the Daily Office Evening Prayer

The audio office project at St. Thomas confirms something I have suspected for a while. Morning Prayer is more commonly read than Evening Prayer. There are probably lots of good reasons for this. Our schedules and our lives may be poorly suited to an evening office. Maybe Evening Prayer is the “honors class” As with Morning Prayer, I am giving you a basic outline here. Evening Prayer has fewer options and is easier to read, and so once you “get” Morning Prayer, it is easy to take the next step (except for the schedules and lives thing).

The readings are found starting on p. 936. The church year starts with Advent, and 2014 is the start of year 1. Even numbered years are year two and odd numbered years are year one. You will have a little bit in Advent when this even/odd rule does not work.

This last Sunday was Easter 2 in Year 1, and so the readings all week are from this week. It might help to mark all the readings before you start. The readings this week are found on p. 958. If you forget what week it is, check the bulletin you took home so you would have the prayer list.

p. 117

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

p. 118 Say **O Gracious Light**

Psalm(s) You do the second set (on the right) with Evening Prayer.

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.

New Testament Reading

Now you say a canticle. (The **Magnificat** is Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday...)

p. 120 **Apostles' Creed**

p. 121 **Lord's Prayer and Suffrages** I'll suggest you alternate A and B.

Say the **Collect for the Day** on Friday → Sunday. The other days you pick one of the others from the first section. There is a second set for mission, and you always read one of those.

Special prayers and parish prayer list

p. 126 **Prayer of St. Chrysostom**

p. 126 Dismissal

Suggested Pattern EP

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
p. 117 “O God, make speed...”	p. 117 “O God, make speed...”	p. 117 “O God, make speed...”	p. 117 “O God, make speed...”	p. 117 “O God, make speed...”	p. 117 “O God, make speed...”	p. 117 “O God, make speed...”
O Gracious Light	O Gracious Light	O Gracious Light	O Gracious Light	O Gracious Light	O Gracious Light	O Gracious Light
Psalm(s)	Psalm(s)	Psalm(s)	Psalm(s)	Psalm(s)	Psalm(s)	Psalm(s)
Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria	Gloria
NT reading	NT reading	NT reading	NT reading	NT reading	NT reading	NT reading
Magnificat	Nunc	Magnificat	Nunc	Magnificat	Nunc	Magnificat
Creed	Creed	Creed	Creed	Creed	Creed	Creed
Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer
Suffrage B	Suffrage A	Suffrage B	Suffrage A	Suffrage B	Suffrage A	Suffrage B
Collect for Sundays	Collect for Peace	Collect for Aid	Collect for Protection	Collect for Presence	Collect for Fridays	Collect for Saturdays
Collect for Mission #1	Collect for Mission #2	Collect for Mission #3	Collect for Mission #1	Collect for Mission #2	Collect for Mission #3	Collect for Mission #1
Prayer of St. Chrysostom	Prayer of St. Chrysostom	Prayer of St. Chrysostom	Prayer of St. Chrysostom	Prayer of St. Chrysostom	Prayer of St. Chrysostom	Prayer of St. Chrysostom
Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal

The idea here is that you cycle through the prayers. There is nothing special about the order I give for collects besides the ones for special days of the week like Sunday. You will notice I have you saying Suffrage A on different days in the mornings and evenings just to mix it up.

Opening and closing sentences are an add-on. Some people do antiphons. These are all optional.

In Year 1, the reading with EP is the Gospel. In Year 2, the reading is the Epistle.

This may seem a little complicated, but one of the beautiful things is that you are saying these prayers and canticles with other Episcopalians all over the world. The “pattern” is more or less what everyone else is doing. If you ever read it with others, knowing the “right” way to do it means everyone will know the canticle, etc.

I just marked the canticles and collects in pencil in my BCP, and don't try to remember them.