

A sunset scene with a bright orange sun low on the horizon over a dark body of water. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. On the left side, there is a dark silhouette of a plant with leaves.

Evening Prayer for FREEDOM

Heavenly Father,

as this day ends, I quiet my soul before you and thank you for all your mercies, remembering that you were with me throughout this day, even at the times I didn't feel you near.

Open my eyes to your providence and make me truly grateful for the ways you have protected and blessed me today "The Lord is my Shepherd; I lack nothing. Surely goodness and mercy follow me all the days of my life!" (Psalm 23).

Open my eyes, too, to recognize how I offended you or missed opportunities to love you and others ... Grant me the gift of a deep and true repentance.

I ask you to infuse my memories of this day with the sweetness of your Holy Spirit, through whom I now receive your forgiveness and your healing. Purify me, O Fire of God! Where there was deception, correct it with your truth. Where there was doubt, inspire firm confidence. Where there was fear, replace it with trust. Where there was sin, cover it with mercy. Where there was any hurt, any wound to my heart, heal me. And wherever there was love or goodness or faith, multiply its effects in me and others and let it bear fruit in eternal life.

In all the ways I have disappointed or harmed people today through my sin or my weakness, I ask you to heal them, provide for them, and fill the gaps between what they needed and what I gave Your mercy overflows for all of us! I trust you to take care of these, your children, and to bring good to them, even through their experience of my faults.

For my part, I now forgive all who have hurt me Give me the humility to accept all wrong, all misunderstanding, all insult, all neglect with patience, knowing that I have hurt others in my turn. I resolve to leave the difficulties of this day in your hands. I will not nurse any grudge by meditating on it or sharing it with others and so allow a root of bitterness to grow in me.

I remember before you all those I connected with today ... and I pray for your blessing upon them. I put into your gentle hands all of our lives. Grant us the gift of peaceful rest; watch over us through the night. In the morning, fill us again with grace, renewing our "youth like the eagle's to run and not grow weary, walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40) and so make our way home on the "highways to Zion" that you build in our hearts (Psalm 84).

I love you Lord. You are the deepest desire of my heart, and I cannot wait to see you face to face. Thank you that through daily union with you, I can begin the life of heaven here and now, a life where with the saints and angels I will praise you forever.

AMEN