

## Lenten Evening Prayers

*A friend posted on Facebook: "I hadn't planned on giving up this much for Lent! 😞" I'm really wrestling. Feels like things are being taken away, not given up. We are in the midst of a world turned upside down, stressed, concerned. Afraid. In the past we've prayed together for comfort, strength and peace. But what's best for us, for those we love is to **not** gather. So how...?*

*By 'Lenting' our safe practices. What if we see social distancing for the good of our community as a sacrifice of love? We can take up this challenging time as an opportunity to pray. To support one another, and love as we are able.*

*God is with us, as he was with Jesus. We are the Body of Christ, just as we are when we are able to gather to sing, pray and praise. We are choosing to fast from our regular Lenten Wednesdays for the good of our neighbor - let us pray together when we are, one in Spirit, for one another, for all in need, and for the healing of creation.*

*If you wish, you can set a space apart for prayer. Flowers, a candle or candles, placemat or table runner can help set the spirit.*

L – LEADER R- RESPONSE

Gathering

*The sign of the cross may be made in remembrance of our Baptism.*

L Blessed be God: Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.

**R and blessed be His kingdom, now and forever!**

L Behold, now is the acceptable time,

**R Today is the day of salvation!**

L O God, come to our aid.

**R O Lord, make haste to help us.**

L Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**R and renew a willing spirit within me.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

L Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low, that we may find peace, knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. **R Amen.**

The Word

*Read the suggested passages from scripture, and/or any additional readings you wish may be read. Each reading may be concluded: The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

Prayers for Healing

L Let us join in spirit and hope, bringing God the deepest needs of our hearts. -*Silence*-

L For our Lenten journey, different than any we've walked before. Be with us where we are, O God;

strengthen us where we are struggling, bring us peace where we are afraid, and help us look to the bright hope of Easter life. R **Lord, hear us!**

For all struggling with COVID-19 in all the ways it sickens in body, mind or spirit; for all who're ill, especially... *-here you may name those whose needs are on your heart-* that we may find relief and recovery: **Lord, hear us.**

For those who are guiding our Commonwealth, shaping policies for our good. May they have wise guidance. May their decisions support healing, peace, cooperation for the public good. **Lord, hear us.**

For the church, the Body of Christ. Make our witness strong in these challenging days. May we be patient, kind, generous, living out the loving-kindness of our faith in words and action as we are able. **Lord, hear us.**

Guard, guide and protect nurses, especially our parish nurse, Mary, doctors and medical researchers; techs of all kinds, administrators, housekeeping and aides, first responders and all who work in the healing arts. Through their skill and insights may all in need be restored to health: **Lord, hear us.**

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying. For those who love them, and who cannot be with them. Be present O God, be present that they may know your comfort and peace: **Lord, hear us.**

*Take time to share specific prayers. The prayers conclude:*

L O God, Father of all, your will for people is wholeness and salvation.

R **We praise and bless you, Lord.**

L God the Son, you came that we might have life, life abundant and whole.

R **We hope in you, O God.**

L Holy Spirit, restore to wholeness whatever is broken by sin in our lives and in the world.

R **Fill us with your presence and peace, Spirit of life.**

L Hear us, Lord of life. R **heal us, and make us whole.**

All **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,  
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,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### Blessing and Sending

L God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: we place in your hands our unfinished tasks, the issues on our hearts, and our unfulfilled hopes. To your care and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**  
*(Church of South India)*

### BENEDICTION

L May the peace which passes human understanding bring us guard our hearts and minds, and strengthen us for today and all days:

**ALL in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**  
**L Be at peace. Serve the Lord. R Thanks be to God!**  
**R Thanks be to God!**