

## ¶ The Blessing of Light

*The Blessing of Light may replace the Preparation as the start of Evening Prayer on any occasion*

### Introduction

*A lamp or candle may be lit*

The Lord is my light and my salvation:  
my God shall make my darkness to be bright.

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

### Light Prayer

*A prayer of thanksgiving, is said, ending with either*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*or*

*All* **Amen.**

### A Song of the Light

*Other candles may be lit as Phos Hilaron – a Song of the Light, or another suitable hymn or canticle, is said or sung.*

Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured  
who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,  
holiest of holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,  
the lights of evening round us shine,  
we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung  
with undefiled tongue,

Son of our God, giver of life, alone:

Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

*'Phos hilaron' Greek, 3rd century or earlier  
tr. John Keble 1792–1866*

## Psalm 141

*Verses from Psalm 141 – a Song of the Evening Sacrifice may be said and incense may be burned*

*All* **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, ♦  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; ♦  
Hear my voice when I cry to you.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, ♦  
and guard the door of my lips.

*All* **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, ♦  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; ♦  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

But my eyes are turned to you, Lord God, ♦  
in you I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.

*All* **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, ♦  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

### Opening Prayer

*This opening prayer may be said*

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Evening Prayer continues with the Word of God, beginning with the appointed Psalm*