

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used

Most merciful God,

we confess to you,

before the whole company of heaven and one another,

that we have sinned in thought, word and deed

and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins,

heal us by your Spirit

and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

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 shall be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

The following or another suitable hymn may be said or sung

Before the ending of the day,

Creator of the world we pray,

That with thy wonted favour thou

Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes

From nightly fears and fantasies;

Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,

That no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,

Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;

Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,

Doth live and reign eternally.

The Word of God

Psalmody

One or more of the following psalms may be used.

Psalm 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦

you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦

how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ♦

when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

4 Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦

commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦

and put your trust in the Lord.

6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦

Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

7 You have put gladness in my heart, ♦

more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦

for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦

and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦

my God, in whom I put my trust.'

3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦

and from the deadly pestilence.

4 He shall cover you with his wings

and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦

his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦

nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦

nor of the sickness that destroys at noon-day.

7 Though a thousand fall at your side

and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦

yet it shall not come near you.

8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦

to see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦

and the Most High your stronghold,

10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦

neither shall any plague come near your tent.

11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦

to keep you in all your ways.

12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦

lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦

the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 Because they have set their love upon me,

therefore will I deliver them; ♦

I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦

I am with them in trouble,

I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦

and show them my salvation.

Psalm 134

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦

you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦

and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦

give you blessing out of Zion.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now

and shall be for ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading read by Yo Reynolds

Matthew 12:1-23

12 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry and began to pick some heads of grain and eat them. 2 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to him, “Look! Your disciples are doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.”

3 He answered, “Haven’t you read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? 4 He entered the house of God, and he and his companions ate the consecrated bread—which was not lawful for them to do, but only for the priests. 5 Or haven’t you read in the Law that the priests on Sabbath duty in the temple desecrate the Sabbath and yet are innocent? 6 I tell you that something greater than the temple

is here. 7 If you had known what these words mean, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the innocent. 8 For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

9 Going on from that place, he went into their synagogue, 10 and a man with a shrivelled hand was there. Looking for a reason to bring charges against Jesus, they asked him, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?”

11 He said to them, “If any of you has a sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will you not take hold of it and lift it out? 12 How much more valuable is a person than a sheep! Therefore it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.”

13 Then he said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out and it was completely restored, just as sound as the other. 14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

15 Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. 16 He warned them not to tell others about him. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

18 “Here is my servant whom I have chosen,

the one I love, in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on him,

and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

19 He will not quarrel or cry out;

no one will hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out,

till he has brought justice through to victory.

21 In his name the nations will put their hope.”

22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. 23 All the people were astonished and said, “Could this be the Son of David?”

One of the following short Scripture verses or another suitable passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

(or)

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion,

seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

(or)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There

will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be

their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4, 5

Reflection

The following responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

Save us, O Lord, while waking,

and guard us while sleeping,

that awake we may watch with Christ

and asleep may rest in peace.

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦

your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦

which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦

and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.

Prayers led by Jackie Collins

“Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.” On this first Sunday in Advent and conscious of your love for each one of us, we place ourselves and our prayers entirely in your hands.

Let us pray for Bishop and Bishop Rose and all religious leaders. May they lead by their personal good example and be shining lights of hope in our troubled world.

Let us pray for all those concerned in the creation, testing and distribution of the promised vaccines against Covid-19. May their efforts bring an end to the pandemic.

Let us pray for everyone who, during the lockdown, has faced job insecurity and who may be struggling to cope at this present time. May they find peace of mind and practical solutions to their difficulties.

Let us pray for all those who are struggling with mental health issues as a result of the coronavirus restrictions. May they discover the support and recovery that they need in order to live a full and happy life.

Let us pray for the many refugees and asylum seekers who are willing to risk their lives in the search for security and freedom. May they meet with compassion and understanding in their time of crisis.

Let us pray for ourselves and all those whom we know and love as we start our Advent journey towards Christmas. May we follow the Star of Bethlehem and allow Jesus to be born in our hearts.

Loving Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, help us to stay awake to your care for us and for

our world. Help us to make this Advent a truly love-filled experience for many people as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Amen.

For people of our nation

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you. In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again, we pray. Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders, Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers. Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve. Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us, and heal our land, we pray. Amen.

We keep a moment of silence.....

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we give you ourselves. Be with us in all that we say, think and do so that our lives might reflect your unlimited love. Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,

give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

and to put on the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;

that on the last day,

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen..

Silence may be kept.

Visit our homes, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from them all the snares of the
enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard
us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
**For you alone, Lord, make us dwell in
safety.**
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
**For the night is at hand and the day is
now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,
So do we look for you, O Christ.

Come with the dawning of the day
**And make yourself known in the breaking
of the bread.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be
gracious to us;
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.
Amen.