

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 - Colossians 2:8-15 **read by Peter Wyllie**

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God

made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

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 Emilia Wyllie

Loving Lord, you sent your only son into this world as a vulnerable child that was nurtured and protected by a human family. In our own vulnerability we turn to you, please hear our prayers we bring before you.

Let us pray for Bishops Justin and Rose as they remind us that Christmas teaches us that God did not look down upon us and pass by, but He became fully immersed in our nature and our human condition, except sin. Let us remember this gives meaning to our existence and helps us through current difficulties, created by the pandemic.

Let us pray for all families on this day. Let us look to Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus as a loving model for all Christian families.

Let us pray for all mothers. May they always be inspired by Mary's duty to God and her beloved only Son. We give thanks for mothers and their tender, caring, all-encompassing love for us.

Let us pray for those that are isolated and bereft of family during this special season. May the Holy Spirit comfort them and fill their lonely hearts with peace and joy.

Let us pray for all suffering from Covid 19, for those being vaccinated and for all who care for them.

Let us pray for communities to bestow kindness to each other during these difficult days of ongoing lockdown. Let us live as good Christians and think of others before ourselves. Let us lend our ears, our hearts, our time to those most in need.

Let us pray for stranded hauliers at the borders. As they face solitary confinement in their lorries may the Holy Spirit bless and protect them on all their onward journeys.

Let us pray for a moment for our own personal petitions...

Heavenly Father, help us to appreciate all you have done for us. Let us hold you close during this special season. We ask this through Christ our Lord. 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 challenging and fearful 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 for Christmas Eve

Almighty God our heavenly Father, on the eve of a new year, prepare us for twelve new months of groaning and growing in grace. We resolve to trust Jesus plus nothing for our everything. With palms up, we offer you great praise and fresh surrender to your purposes. May the New Year be a new year of new creation of faithfulness and fruitfulness. We make

our prayer in Jesus' tender and trustworthy name.

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.