

## 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 - Matthew 20:1-16 read by Jill Fitzpatrick**

20 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

3 “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ 5 So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

7 “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

8 “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

9 “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

13 “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

16 “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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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 Peter Wyllie**

**Lord God you call us to use our human words in order to make your Word real and living amongst us. We come before you with our love and our prayers that Jesus,**

**your Son, the Word you spoke from all eternity, will walk with us through the days that lie ahead.**

**Let us pray for all religious leaders at the start of this new year, that they might inspire us with the courage to make new beginnings and, together, to come closer to God and to each other.**

**Let us pray for all those in government throughout the world, that they might work to make 2021 a year of peace and greater understanding between all people, regardless of their nationality, race, culture, gender and economic status.**

**Let us pray that the United Kingdom's new relationship with Europe and the rest of the world will bring about the greatest good for the greatest number of people.**

**Let us pray for everyone whose life has been turned upside-down by the effects of the coronavirus, that 2021 might be a year of hope and that God will bless all the front-line workers whose generosity and concern made a difference to people's lives.**

**Let us pray for children and young people, that the disruptions to their education, family life and ability to find meaningful work will give way to joy and purpose in the coming year.**

**Let us pray for employers and employees who face uncertainty and insecurity in their workplaces and families, that they will find hope, security and new confidence.**

**Let us pray for ourselves and our families, colleagues, friends and acquaintances, that 2021 will be a year of hope, new beginnings and happiness.**

**Loving Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us in all that we say, think and do in the coming year. Give us the courage to dream dreams and to spread your love to everyone we meet. Amen.**

**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**

O God,

who by the leading of a star

manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:

mercifully grant that we,

who know you now by faith,

may at last behold your glory face to face;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

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.**