

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) led by

The responder on behalf of all is

Alleluia, Christ is risen

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

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 Readings for the days of the Novena

Friday 14th. May - John 16:20-23

Truly, truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

Saturday 15th. May - Jn 16:23b-28

Jesus said to his disciples: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you. Until now you have not asked anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

"I have told you this in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in my name, and I do not tell you that I will ask the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

Sunday 16th May - Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he

had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight. While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going, suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven.”

Monday 17th May - John 16:29-33

The disciples said to Jesus, “Now you are talking plainly, and not in any figure of speech. Now we realise that you know everything and that you do not need to have anyone question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God.” Jesus answered them, “Do you believe now? Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”

Tuesday 18th May - John 17:1-11a

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Give glory to

your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began.

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you.”

Wednesday 19th May - John 17:11b-19

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying: “Holy Father, keep them in your name

that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the Evil One. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

Thursday 20th May John 17:20-26

Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."

Friday 21st. May - John 21:15-19

After Jesus had revealed himself to his disciples and eaten breakfast with them, he said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." He then said to Simon Peter a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Simon Peter answered him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was distressed that he had said to him a third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Amen, amen, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to dress yourself and go where you wanted; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." He said this signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when he had said this, he said to him, "Follow me."

Saturday 22nd. May - John 21:20-25

Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved, the one who had also

reclined upon his chest during the supper and had said, "Master, who is the one who will betray you?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus said to him, "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours? You follow me." So the word spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die. But Jesus had not told him that he would not die, just "What if I want him to remain until I come? What concern is it of yours?"

It is this disciple who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.

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

You are free, Lord, your Ascension has set you free: free from the constraints of human existence, outside the limitations of time and space; free to be here with us now, in our worship and fellowship; and free to be with us always; for in your freedom you have bound yourself to us with a promise:

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray, Lord, for those who need to feel you close, who need the assurance of your love, the encouragement of your Spirit. [Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against, who are mocked because of their faith or race or colour. [Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray for those who are imprisoned, who are tortured, who are exiled, because they have fought, struggled and spoken out for the rights of their people. [Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray for those who are destitute, who are hungry, who are refugees, because of the selfishness and apathy of the world.

[Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray for those who are filled with guilt, who are broken-hearted, who are perplexed,

because a relationship has gone wrong.

[Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray for those who are feeling fed up, who are in discomfort, who are afraid, because they are ill in body, mind or spirit.

[Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray for those who are numbed, who are angry, who are desolate, because they have been bereaved. [Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred; especially the innocent victims of these evils. [Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

We pray at this time of financial turmoil, for those who have lost jobs, those who struggle to pay bills, and those who have the power to affect positive change. [Silence]

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

Be with us all, Lord: in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you. Be with us all, Lord:

in our periods of doubt and despair; and in our times of happiness, health and loving. Be with us all, Lord: until that time when in your in your Kingdom of Love our joy will know no end.

“Lo! I am with you always **even to the very end of time.**”

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

Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, 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.**