

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) -

led by Robin Crowther

The responder on behalf of all is Stephen Ringer

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 - Luke 1:46-56 read by Wendy Curto
Mary said:

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel

for he remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.”

Mary remained with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

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 Piers Crowther

Let us now bring our prayers to God, who is always more ready to hear us than we are to listen to him.

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

We pray for the Church, and all clergy and religious, as they work to serve God and spread his Word.

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

As Christmas approaches, we pray for all those who will not have family or friends to share it with, for those who are homeless, poor or hungry. May we as a society help them see God's love in the help we give them.

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

We pray for those affected by the new Covid virus variant, and for all who minister to them. We pray too for those who serve us in the scientific and political communities in our common life, that by the gift of the Holy Spirit, they may be given a right judgement in all things

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

We pray for all expectant mothers: may they be especially blessed during their weeks of waiting and be rewarded with the joy of new life.

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

We pray for the children of our time: may they know love and affection, care and attention from those charged with their care.

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

We pray for those who mourn the loss of someone special at this time, that they may experience the warmth, comfort and support of others.

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

As the Advent season draws to a close, we remember the real meaning of Christmas, and ask God that the birth of his Son will bring peace on Earth to all.

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

We pray for those recently departed: Brian Fitzpatrick, Martin Brown

We pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur this month:

Michael Roger Fisher-Barham, David Colvin, Alice Mary Bennett, Diana Jones, Leslie Richardson, Hebert Fautly, Elizabeth Jones, George Longley, Millicent Butler, Lilian Guest, Sarah May Scrivener, Mark Ryan, Sylvia Doreen Gould, Audrey May Fautly, Irene Nora Reed

Lord hear us....[Lord graciously hear us](#)

Hear our prayer, O heavenly Father, who sent your Son Jesus Christ to bring your message of salvation to the world, we offer

these prayers in your name, O loving and generous God
Lord hear us....**Lord graciously hear us**

We keep a moment of silence.....

The Collect

Eternal God, as Mary waited for the birth of your Son, so we wait for his coming in glory; bring us through the birth pangs of this present age to see, with her, our great salvation in Jesus 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.**

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.**