

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

## Preparation

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

*All* **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord

*All* **who made heaven and earth.**

*I invite you to join me with me in a moment reflection as we look back on this past day and then to join with me in the confession.*

*All* **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.

*All* **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

*All* **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 a piece of music may be played.*

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray  
That you, with steadfast love, would keep  
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,  
From fears and terrors of the night;  
Tread underfoot our deadly foe  
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done  
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;  
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath  
Our souls are raised to life from death.

## **The Word of God**

*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 noonday.
- 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.

*At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung*

**All 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.**

Monday

*Psalm 4*

*Short Reading: the following or some other*

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

*Isaiah 30.15*

***Collect***

Be present, O merciful God,  
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,  
so that we who are wearied  
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Tuesday

*Psalm 143*

*Short Reading: the following or some other*

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

*Matthew 11.28-end*

### **Collect**

Look down, O God, from your heavenly throne,  
illuminate the darkness of this night with your celestial brightness,  
and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## Wednesday

*Psalm 31.1-5, [19-end]*

*Short Reading: the following or some other*

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

*1 Peter 5.6,7*

### **Collect**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it 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.

# Thursday

*Psalm 16*

*Short Reading: the following or some other*

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*

## **Collect**

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick,  
give rest to the weary,  
sustain the dying,  
calm the suffering,  
and pity the distressed;  
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

# Friday

*Psalm 139.1-18*

*Short Reading: the following or some other*

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

*1 Thessalonians 5.9, 10*

## **Collect**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb  
and so hallowed the grave  
to be a bed of hope for all who put their trust in you:

give us such sorrow for our sins,  
which were the cause of your passion,  
that when our bodies lie in the dust,  
our souls may live with you for ever.

*One of the following short lessons 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*

*The following responsory may be said*

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

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

**All** I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

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

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

**All** 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*

**All** 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.

**All** 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**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

### *The Collect*

Be present, O merciful God,  
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,  
so that we who are wearied  
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silence may be kept.*

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,  
and drive far from it 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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer may be said.*

**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;  
*All* **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
*All* **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,  
*All* **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

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.

*All* **Amen.**