

## An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Friday, 17 September 2021

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, Visionary, 1179 [Lesser Festival]

### Preparation

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

AllAmen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

Allwho 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.

AllMost 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.

AllO Lord, make haste to help us.

AllGlory 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 other suitable hymn may be sung.

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**

### **Psalmody**

#### **Psalm 139 vv 1-18**

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me; <sup>□</sup>  
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place <sup>□</sup>  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue, <sup>□</sup>  
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

4 You encompass me behind and before <sup>□</sup>  
and lay your hand upon me.

5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, <sup>□</sup>  
so high that I cannot attain it. R

6 Where can I go then from your spirit? <sup>□</sup>  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; <sup>□</sup>

if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

8 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9 Even there your hand shall lead me,  
your right hand hold me fast.

10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me  
and the light around me turn to night,'

11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;  
the night is as clear as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike. R

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

14 My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;  
already in your book were all my members written,

16 As day by day they were fashioned  
when as yet there was none of them.

17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,  
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

Refrain: Search me out, O God, and know my heart.

Creator God,  
may every breath we take be for your glory,  
may every footstep show you as our way,  
that, trusting in your presence in this world,

we may, beyond this life, still be with you  
where you are alive and reign  
for ever and ever.

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.

### **Scripture Reading**

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

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.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

### **Gospel Canticle**

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said or sung.

Refrain:

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.

Refrain:

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

Silence may be kept.

Most glorious and holy God,

whose servant Hildegard, strong in the faith,

was caught up in the vision of your heavenly courts:

by the breath of your Spirit

open our eyes to glimpse your glory

and our lips to sing your praises with all the angels;

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.

All Amen.

or

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.  
AllAmen.

or

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.  
AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

## **The Conclusion**

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
Allfor you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

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

As the night watch looks for the morning,  
Allso do we look for you, O Christ.

[Come with the dawning of the day  
Alland 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.  
AllAmen.

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