An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Friday, 25 March 2022

The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

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.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used.

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.

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 35

Refrain: Give me justice, O Lord my God,
according to your righteousness.

1 Contend, O Lord, with those that contend with me;
fight against those that fight against me.

2 Take up shield and buckler
and rise up to help me.

3 Draw the spear and bar the way
against those who pursue me;
say to my soul, ‘I am your salvation.’

4 Let those who seek after my life be shamed and disgraced;
let those who plot my ruin fall back and be put to confusion.

5 Let them be as chaff before the wind,
with the angel of the Lord thrusting them down.

6 Let their way be dark and slippery,
with the angel of the Lord pursuing them.

7 For they have secretly spread a net for me without a cause;
without any cause they have dug a pit for my soul.

8Let ruin come upon them unawares;
let them be caught in the net they laid;
let them fall in it to their destruction.

9Then will my soul be joyful in the Lord
and glory in his salvation.

10My very bones will say, 'Lord, who is like you?'
You deliver the poor from those that are too strong for them,
the poor and needy from those who would despoil them.' R

11False witnesses rose up against me;
they charged me with things I knew not.

12They rewarded me evil for good,
to the desolation of my soul.

13But as for me, when they were sick I put on sackcloth
and humbled myself with fasting:

14When my prayer returned empty to my bosom,
it was as though I grieved for my friend or brother;

15I behaved as one who mourns for his mother,
bowed down and brought very low. R

16But when I stumbled, they gathered in delight;
they gathered together against me;
as if they were strangers I did not know
they tore at me without ceasing.

17When I fell they mocked me;
they gnashed at me with their teeth.

18O Lord, how long will you look on?
Rescue my soul from their ravages,
and my poor life from the young lions.

[ 19]I will give you thanks in the great congregation;
I will praise you in the mighty throng. R
Do not let my treacherous foes rejoice over me, or those who hate me without a cause mock me with their glances.

For they do not speak of peace, but invent deceitful schemes against those that are quiet in the land.

They opened wide their mouths and derided me, saying ‘We have seen it with our very eyes.’

This you have seen, O Lord; do not keep silent; go not far from me, O Lord.

Awake, arise, to my cause, to my defence, my God and my Lord!

Give me justice, O Lord my God, according to your righteousness; let them not triumph over me.

Let them not say to themselves, ‘Our heart’s desire!’ Let them not say, ‘We have swallowed him up.’

Let all who rejoice at my trouble be put to shame and confusion; let those who boast against me be clothed with shame and dishonour.

Let those who favour my cause rejoice and be glad; let them say always, ‘Great is the Lord, who delights in his servant’s well-being.’

So shall my tongue be talking of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.

Refrain: Give me justice, O Lord my God, according to your righteousness.

Free us, righteous God, from all oppression, and bring justice to the nations, that all the world may know you as King of kings and Lord of lords, now and for 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

In him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1.4,5

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 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.

We beseech you, O Lord,
pour your grace into our hearts,
that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ
by the message of an angel,
so by his cross and passion
we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection;
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

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.

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.

[Come with the dawning of the day
All 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.
All Amen.

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