

## **An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)**

**Friday, 25 November 2022**

**Catherine of Alexandria, Martyr, 4th century [Commemoration]**

**Isaac Watts, Hymn Writer, 1748 [Commemoration]**

### **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.

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; □  
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 □  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

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

4 You encompass me behind and before □  
and lay your hand upon me.

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

6Where can I go then from your spirit? □

Or where can I flee from your presence?

7If I climb up to heaven, you are there; □

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

8If I take the wings of the morning □

and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

9Even there your hand shall lead me, □

your right hand hold me fast.

10If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me □

and the light around me turn to night,'

11Even darkness is no darkness with you;

the night is as clear as the day; □

darkness and light to you are both alike. R

12For you yourself created my inmost parts; □

you knit me together in my mother's womb.

13I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; □

marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.

14My frame was not hidden from you, □

when I was made in secret

and woven in the depths of the earth.

15Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished; □

already in your book were all my members written,

16As day by day they were fashioned □

when as yet there was none of them.

17How deep are your counsels to me, O God! □

How great is the sum of them!

18If 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

The one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.

Matthew 24.13,14a

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.

All O King most blessed,  
on the day of judgement  
number us among your chosen.

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 O King most blessed,

on the day of judgement

number us among your chosen.

## Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

## The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Eternal Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven

that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:

keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit

and in the bond of peace,

and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

or

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
bring us to the dwelling which your Son is preparing  
for all who love you;  
give us the will each day to live in life eternal;  
let our citizenship be in heaven with the blessed,  
with the whole company of the redeemed  
and with countless angels,  
praising, worshipping and adoring your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who sits upon the throne for ever and 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.]

May the light of Christ, the King of all,  
shine ever brighter in our hearts,  
that with all the saints in light  
we may shine forth as lights in the world.

© [The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2005](#)

Official Common Worship apps, books and eBooks are available from [Church House Publishing](#).

The Bible readings (other than the psalms) are from *The New Revised Standard Version Anglicized Edition*, copyright 1989, 1995 Division of Christian Education of the [National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America](#). Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Implemented by Simon Kershaw at [Crucix](#).

Implementation copyright © Simon Kershaw, 2002-2021.

[View other services](#)

[Copy to clipboard](#)

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-in-daily-prayer/night-prayer-contemporary-friday-25-november-2022>