An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Sunday, 1 January 2023

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

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 31 vv 1-5, [19-end]

Refrain: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

1In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; ♦
deliver me in your righteousness.

2Incline your ear to me; ♦
make haste to deliver me.

3Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

4Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me; ♦
for you are my strength.

5Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. R
19 How abundant is your goodness, O Lord, which you have laid up for those who fear you; which you have prepared in the sight of all for those who put their trust in you.

20 You hide them in the shelter of your presence from those who slander them; you keep them safe in your refuge from the strife of tongues.

21 Blessed be the Lord! For he has shown me his steadfast love when I was as a city besieged.

22 I had said in my alarm, ‘I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.’ Nevertheless, you heard the voice of my prayer when I cried out to you.

23 Love the Lord, all you his servants; for the Lord protects the faithful, but repays to the full the proud.

24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait in hope for the Lord.

Refrain: Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Lord Jesus Christ, when scorn and shame besiege us and hope is veiled in grief, hold us in your wounded hands and make your face shine on us again, for you are our Lord and God.

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 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 Alleluia. The Word was made flesh, alleluia,
and dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.

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 Alleluia. The Word was made flesh, alleluia,
and dwelt among us. Alleluia, alleluia.
Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Almighty God,
whose blessed Son was circumcised
in obedience to the law for our sake
and given the Name that is above every name:
give us grace faithfully to bear his Name,
to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit,
and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

or

We give you thanks, O God,
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,
so may we know his presence in our hearts,
who is our Saviour and our Lord,
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.]

May the love of the Word made flesh enfold us,
his joy fill our lives,
his peace be in our hearts;
and the blessing of God be with us
this night and always.

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