

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Friday, 26 May 2023

Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, 605 [Lesser Festival]

John Calvin, Reformer, 1564 [Commemoration]

Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians, Spiritual Guide, 1595 [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 86

Refrain: All nations you have made shall come and worship
you, O Lord.

1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, □
for I am poor and in misery.

2 Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; □
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; □
I call upon you all the day long.

4 Gladden the soul of your servant, □
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. R

5For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, □
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

6Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer □
and listen to the voice of my supplication.

7In the day of my distress I will call upon you, □
for you will answer me. R

8Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, □
nor any works like yours.

9All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, □
and shall glorify your name.

10For you are great and do wonderful things; □
you alone are God. R

11Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; □
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

12I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, □
and glorify your name for evermore;

13For great is your steadfast love towards me, □
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave. R

14O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life; □
they have not set you before their eyes.

15But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, □
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

16Turn to me and have mercy upon me; □
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.

17Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; □
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

Refrain: All nations you have made shall come and worship
you, O Lord.

God of mercy,
who in your great love
drew your Son from the depths of the Pit,
bring your people from death to life,
that we may rejoice in your compassion
and praise you 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

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. The old shall dream dreams and the young shall see visions.

Joel 2.28

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 Cantic

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

All Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,

shall teach you all things. 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 Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,

shall teach you all things. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Almighty God,

whose servant Augustine was sent as the apostle

of the English people:

grant that as he laboured in the Spirit

to preach Christ's gospel in this land,

so all who hear the good news

may strive to make your truth known in all the world;

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

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evil be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified in his risen life.

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 Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us
so that we may be consecrated in the truth.

AllAmen.

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