

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Tuesday, 21 November 2023

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 143

Refrain: Show me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in.

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,

and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; □

answer me in your righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, □

for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3 For the enemy has pursued me,

crushing my life to the ground, □

making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

4 My spirit faints within me; □

my heart within me is desolate. R

5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; □

I consider the works of your hands.

6 I stretch out my hands to you; □

my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.

7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; □

hide not your face from me

lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,

for in you I put my trust; □

show me the way I should walk in,

for I lift up my soul to you. R

9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, □

for I flee to you for refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; □

let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.

11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; □

for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,

and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, □

for truly I am your servant.

Refrain: Show me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in.

Jesus, our companion,

when we are driven to despair,

help us, through the friends and strangers

we encounter on our path,

to know you as our refuge,

our way, our truth and our life.

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 Cantic

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.

Heavenly Father,

whose blessed Son was revealed

to destroy the works of the devil

and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope,

may purify ourselves even as he is pure;

that when he shall appear in power and great glory

we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;

where he is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

AllAmen.

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.

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 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.

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