

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Friday, 8 December 2023

The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Lesser Festival]

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

1Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; □
answer me in your righteousness.

2Enter not into judgement with your servant, □
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground, □
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

4My spirit faints within me; □
my heart within me is desolate.

5I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; □
I consider the works of your hands.

6I 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.

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.

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

Keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Mark 13.35-end

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.

Refrain:

All Blessed is she whose soul was pierced

by the sword of the cross.

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 Blessed is she whose soul was pierced

by the sword of the cross.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Almighty and everlasting God,
who stooped to raise fallen humanity
through the child-bearing of blessed Mary:
grant that we, who have seen your glory
 revealed in our human nature
and your love made perfect in our weakness,
may daily be renewed in your image
and conformed to the pattern of your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AllAmen.

or

Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.
Heal our wounds,
calm our fears
and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer.
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;

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.]

Restore us again, O God of hosts;

show us the light of your countenance

and we shall be saved.

Bless and keep us, this night and always.

All Amen.

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