

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Wednesday, 15 May 2024

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 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 Show 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 Canticle

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;

3A light to reveal you to the nations ☩
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

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.

AllAlleluia. 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.

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
AllAmen.

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.

© [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](#)