

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Saturday, 25 May 2024

The Venerable Bede, Monk at Jarrow, Scholar, Historian, 735 [Lesser Festival]

Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne, 709 [Commemoration]

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 91

Refrain: Keep me as the apple of your eye.

1Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ☩
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

2Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ☩
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

3For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ☩
and from the deadly pestilence.

4He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ☩
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler. R

5You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ☩
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, □
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

7Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand, □
yet it shall not come near you.

8Your eyes have only to behold □
to see the reward of the wicked. R

9Because you have made the Lord your refuge □
and the Most High your stronghold,

10There shall no evil happen to you, □
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

11For he shall give his angels charge over you, □
to keep you in all your ways.

12They shall bear you in their hands, □
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13You shall tread upon the lion and adder; □
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. R

14Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them; □
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15They will call upon me and I will answer them; □
I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16With long life will I satisfy them □
and show them my salvation.

Refrain: Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
and, as you have bound us to yourself in love,
leave us not who call upon your name,

but grant us your salvation,
made known in the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

A sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest.

Hebrews 4.9-11a

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.

Refrain:

All Save us, O Lord, while waking,

and guard us while sleeping,

that awake we may watch with Christ

and asleep may rest in peace. 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.

Refrain:

All Save us, O Lord, while waking,

and guard us while sleeping,

that awake we may watch with Christ

and asleep may rest in peace. Alleluia.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Almighty and everlasting God,

you have given us your servants grace,

by the confession of a true faith,

to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity

and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:

keep us steadfast in this faith,

that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;

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.

AllAmen.

or

Stay with us, O God, this night,

so that by your strength

we may rise with the new day

to rejoice in the resurrection of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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.]

The Lord bless us and watch over us;

the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;

the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

AllAmen.

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