

Night Prayer

An Order for Compline

When all have gathered, the leader begins, the people responding with the portions in bold type.

The God of peace grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

The angels of God guard us through the night,
and quiet the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide,
to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early,
and so late take our rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.
**For those beloved of God are given gifts
even while they sleep.**

The following penitential form is used.

Eternal Spirit,
living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be
is known to you.
In the very secret of our hearts
you know all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame, burn into us.
Cleansing wind, blow through us.
Fountain of water, well up within us;
that we may love and praise
in deed and in truth. Amen.

O God of mercy,
you forgive our past sin,
you strengthen us in your gift of eternal life,
you shape us for glory.
O God of mercy, we thank you.

The following or some other suitable hymn may be said or sung.

To you before the close of day,
Creator of all things, we pray
that, in your saving constancy,
our guard and keeper you would be.

Save us from troubled, restless sleep;
from all ill dreams your children keep.
So calm our minds that fears may cease
and rested bodies wake in peace.

A healthy life we ask of you:
the fire of love in us renew,
and when the dawn new light will bring,
your praise and glory we shall sing.

Almighty Father, hear our cry
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, most high,
whom with the Spirit we adore
forever and for evermore.

Psalm

Tuesday Psalm 16.1, 5–11

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *
I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord,
my good above all other."

O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.

I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Glory to God,

**Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Tuesday Matthew 11.28–30

Jesus said, “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Thanks be to God.

Responsory

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit;
For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye;
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Antiphon

**Preserve us, O God, waking,
and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

The Song of Simeon (Luke 2.29–32)

**Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; *
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

**a light to reveal you to the nations *
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Glory to God,
Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen.

Antiphon

**Preserve us, O God, waking,
and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

Prayer

After a silence, this prayer

Lord
it is night.
The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.
It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.
The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world
and of our own lives rest in you.
The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.
The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

Watch Lord,
with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,
give your angels charge over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones, O Christ.
Rest your weary ones.
Bless your dying ones.
Soothe your suffering ones.
Pity your afflicted ones.

Shield your joyous ones.
And all, for your love's sake. **Amen**

The leader may invite the gathered community to offer their own prayers silently or aloud, and bring the time of prayer to a close by saying the following collect

Gracious God, support us all the day long of this earthly life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.
Then, O God, in your mercy,
grant us safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at the last;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,
glorified and exalted above all for ever.

The leader invites the gathered community to say the Lord's Prayer in their own language or using the following form

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**