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 justice, 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.

With penitential hearts we pray,

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

Merciful God,
we have not loved you with our whole heart,
nor our neighbours as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
forgive what we have been,
accept us as we are,
and guide what we shall be. 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. Amen

Psalm to be announced each week & followed as desired in our own Bibles, but often just listened to due to differing versions

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

to be announced each week & followed in our own Bibles as above

Thanks be to God.

Brief period of Silence

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 to 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 further brief period of silence,

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

During our intercessions - you are invited to unmute and offer your own prayers aloud - or silently as is your preference.

For the peace of the whole world, we pray to you:
(Pause) - God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who are weary, sleepless, or depressed, we pray to you:
(Pause) - God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For those who are homeless, hungry, sick, or frightened, we pray to you:
(Pause) - God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

For rest and refreshment, we pray to you:
(Pause) - God of grace, **Hear our prayer.**

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.

And now, as Jesus taught us, in these or whatever words or language we chose, we pray:

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.

We close our time of prayer together saying,

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all,
evermore.

Amen