

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) ↑

## 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.**

*The following or another 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*

*One or more of the following psalms may be used.*

### *Psalm 4*

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; ♦  
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; ♦  
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?

- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; ♦  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦  
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦  
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' ♦  
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, ♦  
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦  
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

### *Psalm 91*

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦  
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings  
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦  
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side

- and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦  
yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold ♦  
to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦  
and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦  
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦  
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me,  
therefore will I deliver them; ♦  
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦  
I am with them in trouble,  
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦  
and show them my salvation.

### *Psalm 134*

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦  
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦  
give you blessing out of Zion.

*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*

*One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read*

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not,  
O Lord our God.

*Jeremiah 14.9*

*(or)*

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a  
roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

*1 Peter 5.8, 9*

*(or)*

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their  
foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or  
the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and  
ever.

*Revelation 22.4, 5*

*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.**

*Or, in Easter*

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Alleluia, alleluia.

**All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

**All Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

**All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

**All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## *Gospel Canticle*

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung*

**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.**

Now, Lord, 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.

*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.**

**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.**

## **Prayers**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

## *The Collect*

*Silence may be kept.*

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.

**All Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer (here) 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.**

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.

**All Amen.**