

# 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.  
Alleluia.**

*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 of the following psalms is read*

*Psalm 4, Psalm 16, Psalm 91, Psalm 134, Psalm 143*

*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  
(or)*

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

*Isaiah 58. 6,7*

*(or)*

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*

*(or)*

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

*Isaiah 30.15*

*(or)*

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

*1 Peter 5.6,7*

*(or)*

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*

*(or)*

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.'

*Matthew 11.28-end*

*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 (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.**

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.

**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 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.**

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.**