

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) Wednesday, 17 February 2021 (Ash Wednesday)

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.  
**Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

*A period of quiet for reflection on the past day follows.*

**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.**

○ God, make speed to save us.  
○ Lord, make haste to help us.

**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.**

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.

Grant, ever blessed Trinity.  
And ever perfect Unity,  
That this, our fast of forty days.  
May work our profit and your praise.

*From Psalm 139*

- 1       ○ Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
          you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
          you discern my thoughts from afar.
- 2       You mark out my journeys and my resting place  
          and are acquainted with all my ways.
- 3       For there is not a word on my tongue,  
          but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

- 4 You encompass me behind and before  
and lay your hand upon me.
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,  
so high that I cannot attain it.
- 6 Where can I go then from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?
- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand shall lead me,  
your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, 'Surely the darkness will cover me  
and the light around me turn to night,'
- 11 Even darkness is no darkness with you;  
the night is as clear as the day;  
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I thank you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
marvellous are your works, my soul knows well.
- 14 My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was made in secret  
and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;  
already in your book were all my members written,
- 16 As day by day they were fashioned  
when as yet there was none of them.
- 17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!
- 18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,  
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

**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*

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*

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

*Gospel Cantic;The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)*

**Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

**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.**

**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.**

**Christ died for us,  
so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

*Prayers*

*The Collect*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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.  
**Amen**

*The Lord's Prayer is said.*

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

May God bless us,  
that in us may be found love and humility,  
obedience and thanksgiving,  
discipline, gentleness and peace.  
**Amen**