

Compline : Night Prayer Plainsong for Eastertide

Material in this service is taken from the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society, Faith Press Ltd

The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia

Preparation

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night
and a perfect end.

Amen.

Brethren be sober, be vigilant,
because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour:
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Thanks be to God.

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.

Hymn

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow,
my Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now hath Christ arisen, arisen,
arisen, arisen!*

My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber:
'til trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number

*Had Christ that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now hath Christ arisen, arisen,
arisen, arisen!*

Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver.

Had Christ that once was slain...

Text: George Ratcliffe Woodward
Music: 17th Century Dutch

Psalmody

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Hear me when I call, O God
of my *right*-eousness:
thou hast set me at liberty
when I was in trouble;
have mercy upon me,
and hearken un-to my prayer.

O ye sons of men,
how long will ye blaspheme mine *ho*-nour:
and have such pleasure in vanity
and seek *af-ter* leasing?

Know this also,
that the Lord hath chosen to himself
the one that is *god*-ly:
when I call upon the Lord, he *will* hear me.

Stand in awe, and *sin*, not:
commune with your own heart,
and in your *cham-ber*, and be still.

Offer the sacrifice of *right*-eousness:
and put your *trust* in the Lord.

There be many that *say*:
who will shew *us* any good?

Lord, lift thou *up*:
the light of thy countenance *up*-on us.

Thou hast put gladness in my *heart*:
since the time that their corn and wine
and oil *in*-creased.

I will lay me down in peace and take my rest:
for it is thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell *in* safety.

Psalm 4

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be:
world without end.
Amen**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Scripture reading

That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralysed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in the city.

Acts 8 : 1b - 8

From the Anglican Eucharistic lectionary for today

Responsory

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

For thou hast redeemed me,
O Lord, thou God of truth
I commend my spirit.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
**Into thy hands, O Lord,
I commend my Spirit**

Hymn

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray,
that with thy wonted favour thou
wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
from nightly fears and fantasies;
tread under foot our ghostly foe;
that no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,
through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
doth live and reign eternally.
Amen.

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

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Cantic)

Alleluia.
He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.
Alleluia!

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant
depart in *peace*:
according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen:
thy *sal*-vation**

**Which thou hast *pre-par*-ed:
before the face of *all* people.**

**To be a light to lighten the *Gen*-tiles:
and to be the glory of thy *peo-ple* Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Spirit.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen**
Alleluia
He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.
Alleluia!

Words of prayer, repentance and forgiveness....

Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive them
that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers;
**To be praised and glorified
above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son
and the Holy Spirit;
**Let us praise him
and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord,
in the firmament of heaven;
**to be praised and glorified
above all for ever.**

The almighty and most merciful Lord
guard us and give us his blessing.
Amen

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed, through our own
grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to
have mercy upon us.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us
all our sins and deliver us from all evil,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and
bring us to life everlasting. Through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen**

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant
unto you pardon and remission of all your
sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace
and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;
that thy people may rejoice in thee?

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
and grant us thy salvation.

Vouchsafe, O Lord,
to keep us this night without sin
**O Lord, have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us.**

O Lord, hear our prayer
and let our cry come unto thee.

Collect Prayer

Let us pray

Almighty Father, who is your great mercy
gladdened the disciples with the sight of the
risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his
presence with us, that we may be
strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and
truth; through Jesus Christ thy Son, our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the
Holy Spirit, world without end
Amen

Blessing and departure

We will lay us down in peace,
and take our rest;
**For it is thou, Lord, only
that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you;
and with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

May the souls of the faithful,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen**