

Compline (or Night Prayer): An Order of Service

The Preparation

Opening Prayer and Responses

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

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

Silence is kept.

**We confess to God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost,
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 everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Turn us, O God our Saviour.

And let thine anger cease from us.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

The Office 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.

The Word of God

Verses from Psalm 4, or another suitable psalm are said or sung.

Antiphon (which may be said before and after the psalm)

Have mercy upon me, O God, **and hearken unto my prayer.**

Hear me when I call, O God of my *righteousness* :

thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.

O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine *honour* : and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after leasing?

Know this also, that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is *godly* : when I call upon the Lord, he *will* hear me.

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

Offer the sacrifice of *righteousness* : 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 *upon* us.

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

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

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

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall *be*: world without *end*. Amen.

The Lesson

A Reading from the Old and/or New Testament is read. The following suggested readings may be suitable:

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*

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*

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*

Responsory

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

Into thy 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 Ghost.

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

Keep me as the apple of an eye;

Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

Gospel Cantic: Nunc Dimittis

Antiphon (which may be said before and after the cantic)

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, **and guard us while sleeping,**
that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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

The Prayers

*Lord, have mercy upon us,
Christ, have mercy upon us,
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Our Father, **which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done in 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.**

*A time of prayer ends with the following or another suitable Collect:
Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night:
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.***

The Conclusion

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, O Lord
for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.
As the watchmen look for the morning
so do we look for thee, O Lord.

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.
Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the
Holy Ghost, bless us and preserve us. **Amen.**