

NIGHT



PRAYER

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

The blessing of the Light

In the evening, Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said to them: "Peace be with you!"
The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all

All And also with you

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All Who is worthy of all thanksgiving and praise.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God,
Our light and our salvation,
Eternal Creator of day and night,
To you be glory and praise for ever!
Now, as darkness is falling,
Hear the prayer of your faithful people.
As we look for your coming in glory,
Wash away our transgressions,
Cleanse us by your reeving fire
And make us temples of your Holy Spirit.
By the light of Christ,
Dispel the darkness of our hearts
And make us ready to enter your kingdom,
Where songs of praise for ever sound,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

All Blessed be god for ever!

A SONG OF THE LIGHT

**Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured,
Who is the immortal father, heavenly, blest,
Holiest of Holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Now, as we come to the Sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine;
We hymn the Father, Son and Holy Spirit divine.**

**Worthy are you at all times to be sung
With undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone;
Therefore in all the world your glories, Lord we own.**

Let us pray.

Kindle in our hearts, O God,
The flame of that love which never ceases,
That it may burn in us, giving light to others.
May we shine for ever in your temple,
Set on fire with your eternal light,
Even your Son Jesus Christ,

Our saviour and our Redeemer.

All Amen.

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.

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 139

Refrain: *Search me out, O God, and know my heart.*

- 1 O 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. R
- 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. R
- 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. R

Refrain: *Search me out, O God, and know my heart.*

*Creator God,
may every breath we take be for your glory,*

*may every footstep show you as our way,
that, trusting in your presence in this world,
we may, beyond this life, still be with you
where you are alive and reign
for ever and ever.*

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.

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.**

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.

[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.