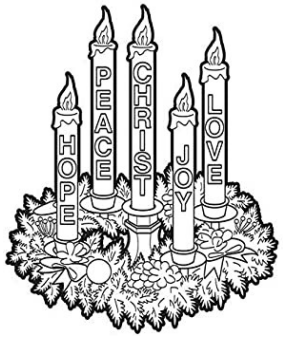
Night Prayer during Advent

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.

The candle is lit

Jesus is the light of the world.
A light no darkness can ever put out.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

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 Jesus.
Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.
O 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. Alleluia.

HYMN

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.

Attributed to St Ambrose Translated by John Mason Neale (1818-66)

Psalm 31: 1-5

1 In you, O Lord, I seek refuge;
do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
2 Incline your ear to me;
rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me.
3 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake lead me and guide me,
4 take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
for you are my refuge.
5 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Or

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

A Reading and Reflection

Responsory

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.

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

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

Gospel Canticle The Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

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

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.
Luke 2.29-32

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.

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

The Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who 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 those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

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.

Come with the dawning of the day
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.
Amen.

No final greeting is given. We end our service in silence.