

# NIGHT PRAYER

## THE SEASON OF LENT



## ¶ Preparation

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

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

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
*All* **now and for ever. Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

*In our Examen, we take a long loving look back over our day with God. We notice and name God's presence. We linger and let go.*

*In your imagination go hour by hour through your day, revisit each significant moment.*

*Thank God for the gifts and graces both big and small.*

*Lean into the difficult moments, notice & name the missed opportunities.*

*Linger and let go ...*

*Look forward ... who does God call you to be tomorrow?*

*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.**

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
forgive *us our* sins  
and make *us* holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **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.**

## Office Hymn

*The following or another suitable hymn may be sung*

- 1 Glory to thee, my God, this night  
for all the blessings of the light;  
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,  
beneath thine own almighty wings.
- 2 Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,  
the ill that I this day have done,  
that with the world, myself and thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
- 3 Teach me to live, that I may dread  
the grave as little as my bed;  
teach me to die, that so I may  
rise glorious at the awful day.
- 4 O may my soul on thee repose,  
and with sweet sleep mine eyelids close;  
sleep that may me more vig'rous make  
to serve my God when I awake.
- 5 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**Words: Thomas Ken (1637-1711)**

**Tune: 'Tallis's Canon'**

**Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585)**

## Psalmody

- 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.
- 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.

Psalm 139.1-18

*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.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*This or another suitable acclamation may herald the Gospel reading*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Blessed are those who have endured temptation;  
they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

## Gospel Reading

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*A short silence to reflect on the reading.*

## Responsory

Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.

**All Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.**

Make haste to help me,  
O Lord of my salvation.

**All Be not far from me, O my God.**  
Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

**All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

## The Song of Simeon

*Nunc Dimittis*

*'The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)' is said or sung*

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

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

## Prayers

### Intercessions

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

*The following intercessions, or another suitable form, may be used.*

In penitence and faith let us make our prayer to the Father and ask for his mercy and grace.

For your holy people,  
that they may triumph over evil and grow in grace:

*All* **we pray to you, O Lord.**

For candidates for baptism and confirmation,  
that they may live by every word  
that proceeds from your mouth:

*All* **we pray to you, O Lord.**

For the leaders of the nations,  
that you will guide them in the ways of mercy and truth:

*All* **we pray to you, O Lord.**

For the needy,  
that they may not be forgotten,  
nor the hope of the poor be taken away:

*All* **we pray to you, O Lord.**

For the sick in body, mind and spirit,  
that they may know your power to heal:

*All* **we pray to you, O Lord.**

For the poor in spirit,  
that they may inherit the kingdom of heaven  
and see you face to face:

*All* **we pray to you, O Lord.**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ suffered,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Each person says the following :*

**My dear ones O Lord, bless and keep,  
in every place where they are.**

*We say together :*

**Our dear ones, O Lord, Companions and friends,  
bless and keep, in every place where they are.**

### The Collects

*The Collect of the day may be said.*

*One or more of the following Collects is said*

Almighty God,  
may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent,  
enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings;  
that by following in the Way,  
we may come to share in the glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Look down, O God,  
from your heavenly throne,  
illuminate the darkness of this night  
with your celestial brightness,  
and from the children of light  
banish the deeds of darkness;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Be present, O merciful God,  
and protect us through the silent hours of this night,  
so that we who are wearied  
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness,  
Lord, we pray,  
and in your great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,  
for the love of your only Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*(or)*

Trusting in the compassion of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*All* **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.**

## ¶ *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 Blessing**

May Christ give *us* grace  
to grow in holiness, to deny *ourselves*,  
take up *our* cross, and follow him.

*All* **Amen.**



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND