

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

## Preparation

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All*

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

*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.**

○ God, make speed to save us.

*All* **○ 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.**

## 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.

○ 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.

*Either*      **Psalm 139.1-18**

- 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.

**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.**

or **Psalm 91**

1Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High ♦  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,

2Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, ♦  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'

3For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler ♦  
and from the deadly pestilence.

4He shall cover you with his wings  
and you shall be safe under his feathers; ♦  
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler. **R**

5You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, ♦  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

6Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, ♦  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

7Though a thousand fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, ♦  
yet it shall not come near you.

8Your eyes have only to behold ♦  
to see the reward of the wicked. **R**

9Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦  
and the Most High your stronghold,

10There shall no evil happen to you, ♦  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

11For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦  
to keep you in all your ways.

12They shall bear you in their hands, ♦  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

13You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦  
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot. **R**

14 Because they have set their love upon me,  
therefore will I deliver them; ♦  
I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; ♦  
I am with them in trouble,  
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them ♦  
and show them my salvation.

## Scripture Reading

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*

## Responsory

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

## **Gospel Canticle**

*Refrain:*

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

**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.

*Refrain:*

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

## **Prayers**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

## **The Collect**

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.

**Amen.**

*Silence may be kept.*

## **The Conclusion**

**All** In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

**All** Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

**All** As the night watch looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Restore us again, O God of hosts;  
show us the light of your countenance  
and we shall be saved.

Bless and keep us, this night and always. **Amen**