

## An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

### Preparation

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.**

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

*The following words of penitence may be used*

**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.

**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.**

*The following 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.

### The Word of God

**Psalmody.** *One of the following psalms may be used.*

*Monday - 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.

*Wednesday - Psalm 31:1-5*

- 1 In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; ♦  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; ♦  
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold; . ♦  
guide me and lead me for your name's sake,
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly  
for me, ♦  
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

*Friday - 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.

*At the end of the psalmody, the following is said*

**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**

*Monday.*

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In  
returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and  
in trust shall be your strength. *Isaiah 30.15*

*Wednesday*

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so  
that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your  
anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

*1 Peter 5.6,7*

*Friday*

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining  
salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for  
us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may  
live with him. *1 Thessalonians 5.9, 10*

*The following responsory may be said*

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.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my  
spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

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

### **Gospel Canticle**

*The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said*

**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*

**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.**

**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.*

*Monday*

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. **Amen.**

*Wednesday*

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.**

*Friday*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb  
and so hallowed the grave to be a bed of hope for all  
who put their trust in you:  
give us such sorrow for our sins,  
which were the cause of your passion,  
that when our bodies lie in the dust,  
our souls may live with you for ever. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer may be said.*

### **The Conclusion**

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.**

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.**