

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) in Advent

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 may follow.
The following or other suitable 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 or other 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.

The Word of God

One of the following psalms is said.

There is a pause in the middle of each verse as indicated ◆

*The minister will say the odd numbered verses
and everyone the even numbered verses*

Psalm 143

- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; ◆
answer me in your righteousness.
- 2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, ◆
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground, ◆
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 My spirit faints within me; ◆
my heart within me is desolate.
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; ◆
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 I stretch out my hands to you; ◆
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.
- 7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; ◆
hide not your face from me
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.

- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,
for in you I put my trust; ♦
show me the way I should walk in,
for I lift up my soul to you.
- 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, ♦
for I flee to you for refuge.
- 10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; ♦
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.
- 11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; ♦
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.
- 12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,
and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, ♦
for truly I am your servant.

At the end of the psalmody the following is said or sung

**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

The following or another suitable passage is read

Keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.

Mark 13.35-end

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.

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said together

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

- 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.**

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.

Heal our wounds,
calm our fears

and give us peace;

through Jesus our Redeemer. **Amen.**

or

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.**

or

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.**

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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.

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.

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.**

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