



## ***An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) Ascension to Pentecost***

### *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 the congregation the even numbered verses*

#### *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.

#### *Psalm 86*

- 1 Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, ♦  
for I am poor and in misery.
- 2 Preserve my soul, for I am faithful; ♦  
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.
- 3 Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God; ♦  
I call upon you all the day long.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant, ♦  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, Lord, are good and forgiving, ♦  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer ♦  
and listen to the voice of my supplication.
- 7 In the day of my distress I will call upon you, ♦  
for you will answer me.

8 Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord, ♦  
nor any works like yours.

9 All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, ♦  
and shall glorify your name.

10 For you are great and do wonderful things; ♦  
you alone are God.

11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; ♦  
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

12 I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart, ♦  
and glorify your name for evermore;

13 For great is your steadfast love towards me, ♦  
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

14 O God, the proud rise up against me  
and a ruthless horde seek after my life; ♦  
they have not set you before their eyes.

15 But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion, ♦  
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

16 Turn to me and have mercy upon me; ♦  
give your strength to your servant  
and save the child of your handmaid.

17 Show me a token of your favour,  
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; ♦  
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

### *Psalms 91*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge ♦  
and the Most High your stronghold,  
10 There shall no evil happen to you, ♦  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.  
11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, ♦  
to keep you in all your ways.  
12 They shall bear you in their hands, ♦  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; ♦  
the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.  
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.

#### *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.

#### *Psalm 139*

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. **R**

***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***

*One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read*

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. The old shall dream dreams and the young shall see visions.  
*Joel 2.28*

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*

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

*Matthew 11.28-end*

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*

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*

I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

*Zechariah 12.10*

***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.**

***The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said together***

**Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,  
shall teach you all things. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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.**

**Alleluia. The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, alleluia,  
shall teach you all things. Alleluia, alleluia.**

***Prayers***

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.*

***The Collect***

*Silence may be kept.*

Come, O Spirit of God,  
and make within us your dwelling place and home.  
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,  
and our troubles calmed by your peace;  
may all evil be redeemed by your love,  
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,  
and all dying glorified in his risen life. **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***

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick,  
give rest to the weary,  
sustain the dying,  
calm the suffering,  
and pity the distressed;  
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. **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.**

*when Holy Communion celebrated the next day*  
[Come with the dawning of the day  
**and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]**

May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us  
so that we may be consecrated in the truth,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



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