

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

*from the Church of England*

## 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.**

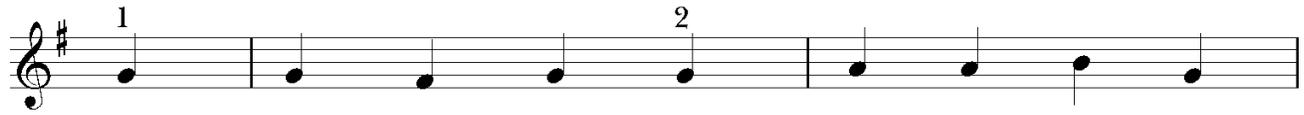
*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.  
The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used*

**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.**

## Hymn 25 "O gracious Light..."



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, in  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth, the  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O



you the Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
Son of God, Life - giv - ing Lord; where - fore you are through



blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.  
Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth and in the high - est heaven a - dored.

*This hymn may be sung unaccompanied as a four-part canon at a distance of one measure.*

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## The Word of God

*One or more of the following psalms may be used.*

### 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 23**

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
    he leads me beside still waters;
- 3 he restores my soul.  
    He leads me in right paths  
    for his name’s sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
    I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
    your rod and your staff—  
    they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me  
    in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
    my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
    all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
    my whole life long.

## Psalm 31

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken 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 castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O LORD, O God of truth.

## Psalm 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.

*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*

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*

*(or)*

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

*Matthew 11:28-30*

*(or)*

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

*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.**

### **Gospel Cantic**

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

*Refrain:*

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,**

**that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
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.*

Almighty God,  
by triumphing over the powers of darkness  
Christ has prepared a place for us in the new Jerusalem:  
may we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection,  
praise him in the eternal city  
of which he is the light;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and 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.**

## The Blessing

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.**



# Church of the Epiphany

*See the Light, Be the Light, Share the Light*

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