

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

The Lord Almighty grant us a kind night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: who made heaven and earth.

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

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.

O God make speed to save us.

All: O 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.

The Word of God

Psalmody- 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 makes me dwell in safety.

Psalm 127

1 Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.

Unless the Lord guards the city, the guards keep watch in vain.

2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved. *

3 Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.

5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Psalm 128

1 Happy is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways.

2 You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

3. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house;
Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

4 Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.

5. The Lord bless you from Zion. May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

6 May you see your children's children.

Peace be upon Israel!

Psalm 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.

2 Lord hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

3 If you, O Lord, should not mark iniquities, Lord who could stand?

4 But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.

5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word, I hope;
6 my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.
7 O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.
8 It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

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

**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.**

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Scripture Reading

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

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*

(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*

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 our wings.

Gospel Canticle

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

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.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgiving may be offered here.

The Collect

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.**

(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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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;

All: for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All: for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,

All: so do we look for you, O Christ.

Thanks be to God.

May God give to you and all whom you love and care for his comfort, and peace, his light and his joy now and for evermore.

Amen.

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