



# 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 may follow.*

**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.**

*The following or another suitable hymn may be said or 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 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 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*

*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 or sung*

**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.  
(Additional prayers are provided on pages 11 & 12)*

***The Collect**  
Silence may be kept.*

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.**

## *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,  
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 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.**

## Additional Prayers

Watch thou, dear Lord,  
with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight,  
and give thine angels charge over those who sleep.  
Tend thy sick ones, Lord Christ.  
Rest thy weary ones.  
Bless thy dying ones.  
Soothe thy suffering ones.  
Pity thine afflicted ones.  
Shield thy joyous ones.  
And all, for thy love's sake.

**Amen.**

*St. Augustine*

Support us, O Lord,  
all the day long of this troublous life,  
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,  
the busy world is hushed,  
the fever of life is over  
and our work is done.  
Then, Lord, in your mercy grant us a safe lodging,  
a holy rest, and peace at the last;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*adapted from the 1928 Prayer Book*

Keep us in peace, O Christ our God,  
under the protection of your holy and venerable cross;  
save us from our enemies, visible and invisible,  
and count us worthy to glorify you with thanksgiving,  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever, world without end.

**Amen.**

*an Armenian Orthodox dismissal*

O Lord, you have given us your word  
for a light to shine upon our path.  
Grant us so to meditate on that word,  
and to follow its teaching,  
that we may find in it the light  
that shines more and more until the perfect day;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*after Jerome (420)*

O Holy Spirit, giver of light and life,  
impart to us thoughts better than our own thoughts,  
and prayers better than our own prayers,  
and powers better than our own powers,  
that we may spend and be spent  
in the ways of love and goodness,  
after the perfect image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*Eric Milner-White and G W Briggs, Daily Prayer (1941)*

Heavenly Father,  
in your Son Jesus Christ  
you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.  
Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days,  
that we may live as those who believe in  
the communion of saints  
the forgiveness of sins  
and the resurrection to eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*adapted from the 1928 Prayer Book*