

# 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.**

**Alleluia.**

## Hymn

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.

## **Psalm 139:1-18**

- 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.

**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.**

## **Bible Reading. These or another may be used.**

### ***Ash Wednesday to Saturday 20 March***

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

*Isaiah 58. 6,7*

### ***Sunday 21 March – Good Friday***

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*

## Silence for reflection

### Responsory

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.**

### Nunc Dimittis

#### Refrain:

*Ash Wed. to Sat. 20 March*                      *or*                      *Sun. 21 March – Good Fri.*

**Christ died for us,**

**so that, whether we wake or sleep,  
we might live with him.**

**Christ himself bore our sins**

**in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin  
and live to righteousness.**

*Or* **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.**

**Repeat the refrain.**

## **Prayers**

*Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here and Silence is kept.*

***The Collect. These or other prayers may be used.***

### ***Ash Wednesday to Saturday 20 March***

Almighty God, may we, by the prayer and discipline of Lent, enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings; that by following in the Way, we may come to share in the glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***Sunday 21 March – Good Friday***

Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **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.**

## **Blessing**