

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) from Ascension to Pentecost

Preparation

Minister The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All **Amen.**

Minister Our help is in the name of the Lord
All **who made heaven and earth.**

A period for Examen on the past day may follow.

Minister We reflect on the day:
For the love shared
All **We are grateful**

Minister For provision and nurture
All **We are grateful**

Minister For kindness given
All **We are grateful.**

Minister For the sorrow we've caused,
All **we pray for forgiveness**

Minister For injustices ignored,
All **we pray for forgiveness.**

Minister For the encounters with God today, in stranger and friend,
All **We bid you welcome.**

Minister For the encounters missed today,
All **We know that you always see us
even when we don't see you.**

Minister For tomorrow,
All **May we see you
in ways expected and unexpected.**

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used

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
raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

Minister O God, make speed to save us.
All 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 another 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

Psalmody. The following psalm may be used.

Psalm 86

R: *All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord.*

- 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. **R**
- 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. **R**
- 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. **R**
- 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.

R: *All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord.*

*God of mercy,
who in your great love
drew your Son from the depths of the Pit,
bring your people from death to life,
that we may rejoice in your compassion
and praise you now and for ever.*

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.**

Short Reading: the following or some other

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

The following responsory may be said

Minister Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Minister For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
All **I commend my spirit.**

Minister Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Minister Keep me as the apple of your eye.
All **Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

Gospel Canticle - The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said

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. 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

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.**

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

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

The Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Minister Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ
to have ascended into the heavens,
so we in heart and mind may also ascend
and with him continually dwell;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Minister Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**All 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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Conclusion

Minister In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Minister Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

Minister As the night watch looks for the morning,
All so do we look for you, O Christ.

Minister May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us
so that we may be consecrated in the truth.

All Amen.