

## **An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) during Ordinary time**

### **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.**

### *The following is said*

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**

*Please select the reading and psalm of the day from the following pages,  
followed by the responsory on page 10*

## **MONDAY**

### **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.

*Give us today, O God,  
a glad heart and a clear conscience,  
that when we come to this day's end  
we may rest in peace with Christ our Lord.*

**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**

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 31.15*

## TUESDAY

### **Psalm 143**

- 1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,  
and in your faithfulness give ear to my supplications; ♦  
answer me in your righteousness.
- 2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, ♦  
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,  
crushing my life to the ground, ♦  
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 My spirit faints within me; ♦  
my heart within me is desolate. [R]
- 5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your deeds; ♦  
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 I stretch out my hands to you; ♦  
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.
- 7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails me; ♦  
hide not your face from me  
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the morning,  
for in you I put my trust; ♦  
show me the way I should walk in,  
for I lift up my soul to you. [R]
- 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, ♦  
for I flee to you for refuge.
- 10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my God; ♦  
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.
- 11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; ♦  
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.
- 12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,  
and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, ♦  
for truly I am your servant.

*Jesus, our companion,  
when we are driven to despair,  
help us, through the friends and strangers  
we encounter on our path,  
to know you as our refuge,  
our way, our truth and our life.*

### **Scripture Reading**

Jesus said, 'Come unto me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'

*Matthew 11.28-end*

## WEDNESDAY

### **Psalm 31 vv 1-5,[19-end]**

- 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 fortress to save me,  
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦  
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
- 4 Take me out of the net  
that they have laid secretly for me, ♦  
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. [R]  
[19 How abundant is your goodness, O Lord,  
which you have laid up for those who fear you; ♦  
which you have prepared in the sight of all  
for those who put their trust in you.
- 20 You hide them in the shelter of your presence  
from those who slander them; ♦  
you keep them safe in your refuge from the strife of tongues.
- 21 Blessed be the Lord! ♦  
For he has shown me his steadfast love  
when I was as a city besieged.
- 22 I had said in my alarm,  
'I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.' ♦  
Nevertheless, you heard the voice of my prayer  
when I cried out to you. [R]
- 23 Love the Lord, all you his servants; ♦  
for the Lord protects the faithful,  
but repays to the full the proud.
- 24 Be strong and let your heart take courage, ♦  
all you who wait in hope for the Lord.]

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
when scorn and shame besiege us  
and hope is veiled in grief,  
hold us in your wounded hands  
and make your face shine on us again,  
for you are our Lord and God.*

### **Scripture Reading**

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

*1 Peter 5.6,7*

## **THURSDAY**

### **Psalm 16**

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; ♦  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, ♦  
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, ♦  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,  
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; ♦  
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; ♦  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage. [R]
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, ♦  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; ♦  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; ♦  
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, ♦  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy ♦  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

*Give to us, Lord Christ,  
the fullness of grace,  
your presence and your very self,  
for you are our portion and our delight,  
now and for ever.*

**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**

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*

**FRIDAY - Psalm 139**

- 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. [R]
- 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. [R]
- 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. [R]
- Creator God, may every breath we take be for your glory,  
may every footstep show you as our way, that, trusting in your presence in this world,  
we may, beyond this life, still be with you where you are alive and reign for ever and ever.*

**Scripture Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5.9,10**

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

## **SATURDAY**

### **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.

*Keep us, Good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy and, as you have bound us to yourself in love, leave us not who call upon you name, but grant us your salvation, made known in the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord.*

### **Scripture Reading – Hebrews 4 9.11a**

A Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God; for those who enter God's rest also cease from their labours as God did from his. Let us therefore make every effort to enter that rest.

**SUNDAY** – on pages 8 & 9

**Psalm 104 vv1, 21-33**

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ♦  
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!  
21 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, ♦  
and the sun knows the time for its setting.  
22 You make darkness that it may be night, ♦  
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.  
23 The lions roar for their prey ♦  
and seek their food from God.  
24 The sun rises and they are gone ♦  
to lay themselves down in their dens.  
25 People go forth to their work ♦  
and to their labour until the evening. [R]  
26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦  
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.  
28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦  
which you have made to play in the deep.  
29 All of these look to you ♦  
to give them their food in due season.  
30 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦  
you open your hand and they are filled with good.  
31 When you hide your face they are troubled; ♦  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return again to the dust.  
32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, ♦  
and you renew the face of the earth. [R]  
33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ♦  
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

*Creator God,  
send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world,  
that the whole creation,  
in its groaning and striving,  
may know your loving purpose  
and come to reflect your glory;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Sunday psalms and reading continue on next page as well*

**SUNDAY – second page**

**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.

*Guard all you household, Lord,  
through the dark night of faith,  
and purify the hearts of those who wait on you,  
until your kingdom dawns with the rising of your Son,  
Christ, the morning star.*

**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**

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*

*The following responsory is 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 are offered here.  
You are welcome to offer a prayer or not as the spirit moves you.*

## **The Collect**

*Silence may be kept.*

*The collect of the day is prayed, this second collect may also be used*

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 prayer Jesus gave us [Lord's Prayer] is said in its traditional form.*

## **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.**

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