

# Compline : Night Prayer on Wednesday the birth of S. John, the Baptist

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## The Gathering ...

### Welcome and introduction

*From our cycle of prayer for this worshipping  
community: Tonight's Office Prayer is offered for*

- the Priest, clergy and ministry team, church  
family, and community, of S. Mary, Lydney,  
in the Gloucester Diocese*
- and for the Worcester Diocese*

## 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.**

**Words of sorrow,  
love, mercy and forgiveness....**

*Time of silence*

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy**

**○ God make speed to save us.  
○ 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 ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen. Alleluia.**

## Hymn

God called great prophets to foretell  
the coming of his Son;  
the greatest, called before his birth,  
was John, the chosen one.

John searched in solitude for Christ  
and knew him when he came.  
He showed the world the Lamb of God  
and hailed him in our name.

That lonely voice cried out the truth,  
Derided and denied.  
As witness to the law of God  
His mighty martyr died.

We praise you, Trinity in One,  
the light for unknown ways,  
the hope of all who search for you,  
whose love fills all our days.

*The Benedictine nuns of Stanbrook Abbey  
Stanbrook Abbey Hymnal  
Tune: 'herongate'*

## Psalmody

**Show us your mercy, O Lord**

*Psalm 85: 7 - end*

Show us your mercy, O Lord,\*  
and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what the Lord God will say,\*  
for he shall speak peace to his people  
and to the faithful,  
that they turn not again to folly.

Truly, his salvation is near  
to those who fear him,\*  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together,\*  
righteousness and peace  
have kissed each other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth\*  
and righteousness look down from heaven.

The Lord will indeed give all that is good,\*  
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness shall go before him\*  
and direct his steps in the way.

**Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.**

**Show us your mercy, O Lord**

### ***Scripture reading***

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

*Luke 3: 15-16, NRSV*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father,  
which 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 them  
that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.**

### ***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 (Gospel Canticle)***

**Grant us your light, O Lord,  
that the darkness of our hearts  
being overcome,  
we may receive the true light,  
even Christ our Saviour.**

**Now, Lord,  
you let your servant go in peace\*  
your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation\*  
which you have prepared  
in the sight of every people;**

**A light to reveal you to the nations\*  
and the glory of your people, Israel.**

**Glory be 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,  
world without end. Amen**

**Grant us your light, O Lord,  
that the darkness of our hearts  
being overcome,  
we may receive the true light,  
even Christ our Saviour.**

### ***Intercession...***

*..... intercession.... Bringing to mind those whom we  
pray for and holding them in God's love ..., bringing  
the needs of the world, the church, and those who  
have no-one to pray for them... prayers for those  
who are unwell, those who have died, and those  
who mourn*

## Collect

Almighty God,  
by whose providence  
your servant John the Baptist  
was wonderfully born,  
and sent to prepare the way  
of your Son, our Saviour,  
by the preaching of repentance:  
lead us to repent according to his preaching  
and, after, his example,  
constantly to speak the truth,  
boldly to rebuke vice,  
and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## ***Blessing and departure***

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**

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from  
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.  
Amen**