

# Compline : Night Prayer Plainsong

*Material in this service is taken from the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society, Faith Press Ltd*

## **The Gathering ...**

Welcome and introduction

## **Intercession...**

*For this office, a time of stillness, to  
Bringing to mind those whom we pray for and hold  
them in God's love..., bringing the needs of the  
world, the church, and those who have no-one to  
pray for them... and to offer thanksgiving. Keep  
these in your mind and heart during the Office, and  
let the music wrap and lift.*

## **Preparation**

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night  
and a perfect end.

**Amen.**

Brethren be sober, be vigilant,  
because your adversary the devil,  
as a roaring lion, walketh about,  
seeking whom he may devour:  
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Thanks be to God.**

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.**

## **Psalmody**

Hear me when I call, O God  
of my *right-eousness*:  
thou hast set me at liberty  
when I was in trouble;  
have mercy upon me,  
and hearken un-to my prayer.

O ye sons of men,  
how long will ye blaspheme mine *ho-nour*:  
and have such pleasure in vanity  
and seek af-ter leasing?

Know this also,  
that the Lord hath chosen to himself  
the one that is *god-ly*:  
when I call upon the Lord, he *will* hear me.

Stand in awe, and *sin*, not:  
commune with your own heart,  
and in your cham-ber, and be still.

Offer the sacrifice of *right-eousness*:  
and put your *trust* in the Lord.

There be many that *say*:  
who will shew *us* any good?

Lord, lift thou *up*:  
the light of thy countenance *up-on* us.

Thou hast put gladness in my *heart*:  
since the time that their corn and wine  
and oil *in-creased*.

I will lay me down in peace and take my *rest*:  
for it is thou, Lord only,  
that makest me dwell *in* safety.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be:  
world without end.**

**Amen.**

## **Scripture reading**

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy Name. Leave us not, O Lord our God.

OR

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

OR

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the Everlasting Covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Responsory**

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

For thou hast redeemed me,  
O Lord, thou God of truth  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
**Into thy hands, O Lord,  
I commend my Spirit**

## **Hymn**

Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world, we pray,  
that with thy wonted favour thou  
wouldst be our guard and keeper now.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,  
from nightly fears and fantasies;  
tread under foot our ghostly foe;  
that no pollution we may know.

O Father, that we ask be done,  
through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;  
who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,  
doth live and reign eternally.

Amen.

Keep me as the apple of an eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow  
of thy wings**

## **Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)**

**Preserve us O Lord, while waking;  
and guard us while sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant  
depart in *peace*:  
according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen:  
thy *sal*-vation**

**Which thou hast *pre-par*-ed:  
before the face of *all* people.**

**To be a light to lighten the *Gen*-tiles:  
and to be the glory of thy *peo-ple* Israel.**

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

**Preserve us O Lord, while waking;  
and guard us while sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ,  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

## **Words of prayer, repentance and forgiveness....**

Lord, have mercy upon us  
**Christ, have mercy upon us**  
Lord, have mercy upon us

### **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.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers;  
**To be praised and glorified**  
**above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son  
and the Holy Ghost;  
**Let us praise him**  
**and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord,  
in the firmament of heaven;  
**to be praised and glorified**  
**above all for ever.**

The almighty and most merciful Lord  
guard us and give us his blessing.  
**Amen.**

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the  
Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed, through our own  
grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to  
have mercy upon us.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us  
all our sins and deliver us from all evil,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and  
bring us to life everlasting. Through Jesus  
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;  
**that thy people may rejoice in thee?**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;  
**and grant us thy salvation.**

Vouchsafe, O Lord,  
to keep us this night without sin  
**O Lord, have mercy upon us,**  
**have mercy upon us.**

O Lord, hear our prayer  
**and let our cry come unto thee.**

### **Collect**

Let us pray

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and  
drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let  
thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in  
peace; and may thy blessing be upon us  
evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

OR

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee O  
Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from  
all perils and dangers of this night; for the love  
of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

OR

O Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God,  
who at this evening hour didst rest in the  
sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave  
to be a bed of hope to thy people; make us to  
abound in sorrow for our sins, which were  
the cause of thy passion; that when our  
bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with  
thee; who livest and reignest with the Father  
and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without  
end.

OR

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

OR

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### ***Blessing and departure***

We will lay us down in peace,  
and take our rest;  
**For it is thou, Lord, only  
that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you;  
**and with thy Spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord;  
**Thanks be to God.**

May the souls of the faithful,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
**Amen**

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

**Amen**

Goodnight ....