

# Compline : Night Prayer for Eastertide

*Material in this service is from Common Worship Compline  
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## **The Gathering ...**

Welcome and introduction

## **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....**

We come to God  
as one from whom no secrets are hidden,  
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
**Lord, have mercy**

## **Song / Hymn**

Love's redeeming work is done,  
fought the fight, the battle won.  
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!  
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids him rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our victorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following out exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise,  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection thou!

*Charles Wesley*

## **Psalmody**

### **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

For the word of the Lord is true\*  
and all his works are sure.  
He loves righteousness and justice\*  
the earth is full of the loving-kindness  
of the Lord.

Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those  
who fear him,\*  
on those who wait in hope  
for his steadfast love.  
To deliver their soul from death \*  
and to feed them in time of famine.

Our soul waits longingly for the Lord; \*  
he is our help and our shield.  
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him; \*  
in his holy name have we put our trust

Let your loving-kindness, O Lord,  
be upon us, \*  
as we have set our hope on you.

**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.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **Scripture reading**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "**Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.**"

Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "**Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"

*John 3: 1-8*

*Taken from the Eucharistic Anglican Lectionary gospel reading  
for the day*

## **Poem Response to the Holy Spirit**

In darkness and anxiety  
I searched for her continually  
Treading again, the paths of my confusion  
Knowing I know nothing.

In darkness and aridity  
I longed for her variety,  
Absorbed and aching with my neediness  
Feeling I know nothing

In darkness and in emptiness  
I pleaded for her tenderness,  
Fingering the pain of my familiar loss,  
Fearing to know nothing.

In darkness and security  
She came to me abundantly  
Touching the speechless and reluctant  
part of me  
needing to know nothing.

*Taken from Janet Morley,  
'All Desires Known', SPCK London, 1992, p.106*

## **Responsory**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my  
spirit. Alleluia, Alleuia!  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend  
my spirit. Alleluia, Alleuia!**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of  
truth.  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

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

## **Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Cantic)**

**Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,  
as he promised to you. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

**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**

**Alleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,  
as he promised to you. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

### ***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...*

### **Collect for Eastertide**

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked,  
no entrance barred:  
open the door of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace  
to the praise of God the Father.  
Amen.

### **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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
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 risen Lord bless us.  
May he watch over us and renew us  
as he renews the whole of creation.  
May our hearts and lives echo his love.

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

**Amen**

*Goodnight ....*