

# Compline : Night Prayer in Eastertide

*Jim Cotter : Prayer at Night, Sheffield, Cairns  
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*Greek, 3<sup>rd</sup> century or earlier,  
translated by John Keble*

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## **The Gathering ...**

### Welcome and introduction

Christ is Risen!  
He is Risen indeed!  
**Alleluia!**

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The angels of God guard us through the night,  
**and quieten the powers of darkness.**

The Spirit of God be our guide  
**to lead us to peace and to glory.**

It is but lost labour that you haste to rise up  
early, and so late take rest, and eat the bread  
of anxiety. For those beloved of God are  
given gifts even while they sleep.

*Psalm 127*

Our help is in the name of the eternal God  
**who is making the heavens  
and the earth.**

## **Hymn**

Hail, gladdening Light,  
of his pure glory poured  
who is the immortal Father,  
heavenly, blest,  
holiest of holies, Jesus our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,  
the lights of evening round us shine,  
we hymn the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung  
with undefiled tongue,  
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:  
therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord,  
they own.

Dear God, thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and our humanity,  
for the stewardship you have given us  
of this planet earth,  
for the gifts of life and of one another,  
for your love,  
which is unbounded and eternal.

O Thou, Most Holy and Beloved,  
My Companion, my Unicorn,  
my Guide upon the Way.

## **Words of love and penitence...**

We repent of the wrongs we have done:  
our blindness to human need and suffering;  
our indifference to injustice and cruelty;  
our false judgements,  
petty thoughts, and contempt;  
our waste and pollution  
of the earth and oceans;  
our lack of concern  
for those that come after us;

Eternal Spirit, living God,  
in whom we live and move  
and have our being,  
all that we are, have been, and shall be  
is known to you,  
to the very secrets of our hearts  
and all that rises to trouble us.  
Living flame, burn into us:  
Cleansing wind, blow through us:  
Fountain of water, well up within us:  
That we may love and praise  
in deed and in truth.

Eternal Spirit, flow through our being  
and open our lips,  
**that our mouths  
may proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the God of Love:  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## ***Psalmody***

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

As a deer longs for streams of living water,  
so longs my soul for you, O God.  
My soul is thirsty for the living God:  
when shall I draw near to see your face?

My tears have been my food in the night;  
all day long they ask me,  
'Where now is your God?'  
As I pour out my soul in distress,  
I remember how I went  
to the temple of God,  
with shouts and songs of thanksgiving,  
a multitude keeping high festival.

Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul?  
and why so rebellious within me?  
O put your trust in God,  
patiently wait for the dawn,  
and you will then praise your deliverer and  
your God

**Glory be to God,  
sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,  
as in the beginning, so now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## ***Scripture reading***

And they all left him and fled. Now a young  
man followed him wearing nothing but a linen  
cloth about his body. They seized him, but he  
left the cloth behind and ran off naked.

He said to them, "Go into the whole world  
and proclaim the gospel to every creature.

... they went forth and preached everywhere,  
while the Lord worked with them and  
confirmed the word through accompanying  
signs.

*Mark 14:50-52, 16:15, 20*

## ***Responsory***

Into your hands, O God,  
I commend my spirit,  
**For you have redeemed me,  
O God of truth and love.**

Keep me, O God, as the apple of an eye:  
**Hide me under the shadow of your  
wings.**

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

**Alleluia.  
The lamb who was slain has conquered,  
Alleluia.  
All who follow the Way  
will share in the victory, Alleluia, alleluia**

**Praise be to God,  
I have lived to see this day.  
God's promise is fulfilled  
and my duty done.  
At last you have given me peace,  
for I have seen with my own eyes  
the salvation you have prepared  
for all nations –  
a light to the world in its darkness,  
and the glory of your people, Israel.**

**Glory be to God,  
sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,  
as in the beginning, so now and forever.  
Amen.**

**Alleluia.  
The lamb who was slain has conquered,  
Alleluia.  
All who follow the Way  
will share in the victory, 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...*

### **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**

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,  
**for it is in God alone  
that I dwell unafraid.**

Let us bless the Life-Giver,  
the Pain-Bearer, the Love-Maker  
**let us praise and exalt God  
above all for ever.**

May God's name be praised  
beyond the furthest star;  
**glorified and exalted above all for ever.  
Amen.**

Watch between us dear God,  
when we are absent from one another. Amen.

O God,  
the Source of the whole world's gladness  
and the bearer of its pain,  
may your unconquerable joy  
rest at the heart  
of all our trouble and distress.

Be present, Living Christ, within us,  
your dwelling place and home,  
that all places may be ones where  
all darkness is penetrated by your light,  
all troubles calmed by your peace,  
all evil redeemed by your love,  
all pain transformed in your suffering.  
and all dying glorified in your risen life.  
Amen.

Blessing, light, and glory surround us and  
scatter the darkness of the long and lonely  
night.

Amen

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

**Amen**

*Goodnight ....*