

# Compline : Night Prayer in Ascensiontide S. Bede

Jim Cotter : 'Prayer at Night', Sheffield, Cairns Publications, 1991

Scripture from the NIV

Collect for S. Bede from Common Worship

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## The Gathering ...

Welcome

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

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

- *the priest, clergy team, people and community of S. Michael and All Angels, Dafen, in Wales*
- *and for the Lichfield Diocese.*

*Today is also the day we remember S. Bede, northern Saint. His Shrine in Durham Cathedral is a beautiful place of prayer dear to many. Born around 670, and given to the monastery at Wearmouth at the age of 7, he lived most of his life as a monk at Jarrow; a life of prayer, study and teaching, insight and integrity, steeped in scripture. He was beloved by all his community. A famous and influential historian, writing 'A History of the English Church and People', and one of the first to write in English prose.*

*"I was no longer the centre of my life, and therefore I could see God in everything"*

## Collect for S. Bede

God our maker,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
gave to your servant Bede  
grace to drink in with joy the word  
that leads us to know you and to love you:  
in your goodness  
grant that we also may come at length to you,  
the source of all wisdom,  
and stand before your face;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever  
Amen.

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.**

They that wait for the Spirit shall renew their strength: they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Isaiah 40:31*

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

## Song

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
gentle as is the dove;  
teach us the truth and help us believe,  
show us the Saviour's love!

You spoke to us long, long ago,  
gave us the written word;  
we read it still, needing its truth  
through it God's voice is heard.

Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,  
gentle as is the dove;  
teach us the truth and help us believe,  
show us the Saviour's love!

*Text: Scripture Union  
Music : Scottish folk melody*

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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 grieve and confess  
**that we hurt and have been hurt,  
to the third and fourth generations,**

That we are so afraid of pain  
**that we shield ourselves from being  
vulnerable to others,  
and refuse to be open  
and trusting as a child**

O God of wholeness, we rest in you...

you listen with us  
to the sound of running water,  
you sit with us under the shade  
of the trees of our healing,  
you walk once more with us  
in the garden in the cool of the day,  
the oil of your anointing penetrates  
the cells of our being,  
the warmth of your hands steadies us  
and gives us courage.

O God of wholeness, we rest in you.....

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!**

We your servants bless you, O God,  
as we stand by night in your house.

We lift up our hands towards the holy place,  
and give you thanks and praise.

Bless us from all places where you dwell,  
O God, Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Know that God has shown  
me such wonderful kindness;  
when I call out in prayer, God hears me.  
Tremble, admit defeat, and sin no more.

Look deep into your heart  
before you sleep and be still.  
Bring your gifts, just as you are,  
and put your trust in God.

Many are asking,  
Who can make us content?  
The light of your countenance  
has gone from us, O God.

Yet you have given my heart more gladness  
than those whose corn and wine and oil  
increase.  
I lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,  
for in you alone, O God, do I dwell unafraid.

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

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Scripture reading

"Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak."

*Luke 12: 35 - 38*

*Taken from the Eucharistic readings for the S. Bede, from the Anglican lectionary*

## 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 pioneer of our salvation has  
triumphed through suffering and death,  
**Alleluia.**  
The firstborn among many sisters and  
brothers has led the way into the  
presence of God,  
**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 pioneer of our salvation has  
triumphed through suffering and death,  
Alleluia.**

**The firstborn among many sisters and  
brothers has led the way into the  
presence of God,  
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.

God bless us and keep us,  
God's face shine on us and be gracious to us,  
and give us light and peace.  
Amen

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

**Amen**

Goodnight ....