

# Compline : Night Prayer during Christmastide

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 bring to mind those whom we pray for and hold them in God's love..., 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.*

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

- *S. Margaret of Antioch, Cliffe, in the Canterbury Diocese*
- *and for the S. David's Diocese*

## 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.**

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O God, make speed to save us,  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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**

Praise ye the Lord;  
**the Lord's Name be praised.**

## 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**

Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

*1 John 2: 7-8  
King James Version  
From the Anglican Eucharistic Lectionary for the day*

**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**

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is alpha and omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are,  
that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore, and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bare the Saviour of our race

and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages  
sang of old with one accord;  
whom the writings of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long-expected:  
let our songs declare his worth,  
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be;  
honour, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore.

*Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 – 413) transl. Neale  
Music: Plainsong, adapted by Theodoricus Petrus in Pia  
Cantiones  
(HON New Anglican Edition 395)*

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

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in  
your own image, and yet more wonderfully  
restored us through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our  
humanity, so we may share the life of his  
divinity; who liveth and reigneth with thee and  
the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end

**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 ....