

# Compline :

## Night Prayer on the lesser festival of S. Agnes

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### **The Gathering ...**

S. Agnes was a child martyr, dying at around 12 or 13 years of age. She had dedicated her life to God, and refused marriage, and this refusal ultimately led to threats of sending her into prostitution, and finally to her shockingly violent martyrdom around the year 304.

S. Agnes prays with us, especially those – especially families - whose faith is under pressure and persecution, and for all children who are forced into sexual abuse, trafficking, and untimely and violent death.

*This office is offered for that intention today. But is also 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*

- *The La Lucia community in Durban, S. Africa*
- *and for the Canterbury 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.**

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**

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

*Revelation 12: 10 – 11*  
*Anglican Eucharistic Lectionary reading for this Festival*

**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

Eternal God,  
shepherd of your sheep,  
whose child, Agnes, was strengthened  
to bear witness in her living and dying  
to the true love of her redeemer:  
grant us the power to understand,  
with all your saints,  
what is the breadth and length  
and height and depth  
and to know the love that surpasses  
knowledge, even 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

## 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**

**S. Agnes,**  
Pray for us....