

Compline : Night Prayer Plainsong –

Saints and Martyrs of England and Wales from the reformation era

Material in this service is taken from the Plainsong and Mediaeval Music Society, Faith Press Ltd

Of those English and Welsh martyrs who died in the reformation period, over 300 martyrs have been officially canonised and blessed, but the true number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison or were tortured or persecuted for their faith cannot be reckoned. They came from every walk of life, rich and poor, married and single, men and women. We remember and give thanks for their example of constancy and courage in the face of persecution. As we give thanks we pray with these saints for deeper peace, for love and generosity between branches of the church, and for all places where faith is persecuted.

The Gathering ...

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome and introduction

Intercession...

For this office, a time of stillness, to *Bringing to mind those whom we pray for and hold them in God's love..., bringing 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.*

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

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture reading

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that
the excellency of the power may be of God, and not
of us. We are troubled on every side, yet not
distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not
destroyed

2 Corinthians 4:7-9 KJV

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. Alleluia!**

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. Alleluia!**

**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

Risen Christ,
Thy wounds declare
the love thou hast for the world
and the wonder of thine risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those whom we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.
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**