



*An order for  
Compline or Night Prayer  
For Christmas  
And Epiphany*

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who made heaven and earth.**

**Most merciful God, we confess to you,  
before the whole company of heaven and one another,  
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed  
and in what we have failed to do.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
heal us by your Spirit  
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Alleluia.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!**

bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.

Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.

These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name!

Our Father, who 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 those who 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.

In peace we will lie down and sleep;  
**for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**  
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,  
**for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**  
As the night watch looks for the morning,  
**so do we look for you, O Christ.**

[Come with the dawning of the day  
**and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.  
Amen.

### **The race that long in darkness pined**

has seen a glorious light:  
the people dwell in day, who dwelt  
in death's surrounding night.

To hail thy rise, thou better Sun,  
the gathering nations come,  
joyous as when the reapers bear  
the harvest treasures home.

To us a child of hope is born,  
to us a Son is given;  
him shall the tribes of earth obey,  
him all the hosts of heaven.

His name shall be the Prince of Peace,  
for evermore adored,  
the Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the great and mighty Lord.

His power increasing still shall spread,  
his reign no end shall know;  
justice shall guard his throne above,  
and peace abound below.

### **Hail to the Lord's Anointed,**

great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
o set the captive free,  
o take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

He comes, with succour speedy,  
o those who suffer wrong;  
o help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
o give them songs for sighing,  
heir darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.

### **He shall come down like showers**

upon the fruitful earth;  
that love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth;  
before him, on the mountains,  
shall peace the herald go;  
and righteousness, in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,  
he on his throne shall rest;  
from age to age more glorious,  
all-blessing and all-blest.

The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand for ever,  
his changeless name of Love.

### Thursday

We give you thanks, O God,  
for the gift to the world of our Redeemer;  
as we sing your glory at the close of this day,  
so may we know his presence in our hearts,  
who is our Saviour and our Lord,  
now and for ever.

### Friday

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 is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Saturday

King of kings and Lord of lords,  
making the true light to shine:  
lighten our darkness now and evermore  
that with our lips and in our lives  
we may praise you;  
for you are our God, now and for ever.

## Sunday

Almighty God,  
by triumphing over the powers of darkness  
Christ has prepared a place for us in the new Jerusalem:  
may we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection,  
praise him in the eternal city  
of which he is the light;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Monday

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 is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## Tuesday

Look down, O God, from your heavenly throne,  
illuminate the darkness of this night with your celestial brightness,  
and from the children of light banish the deeds of darkness;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

## Wednesday

May the living waters of Christ cleanse us,  
may the Spirit descend upon us,  
and the blessing of God be with us  
this night and always.

## Sunday

*Psalm 68:1-6, 32-35*

- <sup>1</sup> Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;\*  
let those who hate him flee before him
- <sup>2</sup> As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;\*  
as wax melts before the fire,  
let the wicked perish before God.
- <sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be joyful;  
let them exult before God;\*  
let them be jubilant with joy.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing to God, sing praises to his name;\*  
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds—  
his name is the Lord—  
be exultant before him.
- <sup>5</sup> Father of orphans and protector of widows\*  
is God in his holy habitation.
- <sup>6</sup> God gives the desolate a home to live in;\*  
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,  
but the rebellious live in a parched land.
- <sup>32</sup> Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;\*  
sing praises to the Lord,
- <sup>33</sup> O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens;\*  
listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.
- <sup>34</sup> Ascribe power to God,  
whose majesty is over Israel;\*  
and whose power is in the skies.
- <sup>35</sup> Awesome is God in his sanctuary,  
the God of Israel;\*  
he gives power and strength to his people.  
Blessed be God!

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*John 1.4,5*

In him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it.

## Monday

*Psalm 72:1-7, 11-19*

- <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,\*  
and your righteousness to a king's son.
- <sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness,\*  
and your poor with justice.
- <sup>3</sup> May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,\*  
and the hills, in righteousness.
- <sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures,\*  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.
- <sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,\*  
like showers that water the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> In his days may righteousness flourish\*  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.
- <sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him,\*  
all nations give him service.
- <sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when they call,\*  
the poor and those who have no helper.
- <sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy,\*  
and saves the lives of the needy.
- <sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life;\*  
and precious is their blood in his sight.
- <sup>17</sup> May all nations be blessed in him;\*  
may they pronounce him happy.
- <sup>18</sup> Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,\*  
who alone does wondrous things.
- <sup>19</sup> Blessed be his glorious name for ever;\*  
may his glory fill the whole earth.

Amen and Amen.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*Titus 2.11*

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

*(These or other prayers may be used)*

Lord,

it is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;  
what has not been done has not been done;  
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives  
rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,  
all dear to us,  
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,  
new joys,  
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

**Amen.**

Lighten our darkness,

Lord, we pray,

and in your great mercy

defend us from all perils and dangers of this night,

for the love of your only Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

**I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

**Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

<sup>1</sup> Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:\*  
your word has been fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup> My own eyes have seen the salvation\*  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

<sup>3</sup> A light to reveal you to the nations\*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Save us, O Lord, while waking,  
and guard us while sleeping,  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep may rest in peace.**

## Tuesday

*Psalm 98*

<sup>1</sup> O sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvellous things.\*

His right hand and his holy arm  
have gained him victory.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord has made known his victory;\*  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

<sup>3</sup> He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.\*

All the ends of the earth have seen  
the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;\*  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

<sup>5</sup> Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,\*  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

<sup>6</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn\*  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;\*  
the world and those who live in it.

<sup>8</sup> Let the floods clap their hands;\*  
let the hills sing together for joy

<sup>9</sup> at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming  
to judge the earth.\*

He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*1 Timothy 3:16*

He [Christ] was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit,  
seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles,  
believed in throughout the world,  
taken up in glory.

## Wednesday

### *Psalm 102:1-13*

- <sup>1</sup> Hear my prayer, O Lord;\*  
let my cry come to you.
- <sup>2</sup> Do not hide your face from me  
on the day of my distress.\*  
Incline your ear to me;  
answer me speedily on the day when I call.
- <sup>3</sup> For my days pass away like smoke,\*  
and my bones burn like a furnace.
- <sup>4</sup> My heart is stricken and withered like grass;\*  
I am too wasted to eat my bread.
- <sup>5</sup> Because of my loud groaning\*  
my bones cling to my skin.
- <sup>6</sup> I am like an owl of the wilderness,\*  
like a little owl of the waste places.
- <sup>7</sup> I lie awake,\*  
I am like a lonely bird on the housetop.
- <sup>8</sup> All day long my enemies taunt me;\*  
those who deride me use my name for a curse.
- <sup>9</sup> For I eat ashes like bread,\*  
and mingle tears with my drink,
- <sup>10</sup> because of your indignation and anger;\*  
for you have lifted me up and thrown me aside.
- <sup>11</sup> My days are like an evening shadow;\*  
I wither away like grass.
- <sup>12</sup> But you, O Lord, are enthroned for ever;\*  
your name endures to all generations.
- <sup>13</sup> You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,  
for it is time to favour it;\*  
the appointed time has come.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

## Saturday

### *Psalm 111*

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!\*  
I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,  
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- <sup>2</sup> Great are the works of the Lord,\*  
studied by all who delight in them.
- <sup>3</sup> Full of honour and majesty is his work,\*  
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- <sup>4</sup> He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;\*  
the Lord is gracious and merciful.
- <sup>5</sup> He provides food for those who fear him;\*  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- <sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works,\*  
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
- <sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithful and just;\*  
all his precepts are trustworthy.
- <sup>8</sup> They are established for ever and ever,\*  
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
- <sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant for ever.\*  
Holy and awesome is his name.
- <sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;\*  
all those who practise it have a good understanding.  
His praise endures for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

### *Matthew 1:22-23*

All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*Philippians 2:9-11*

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

*Isaiah 9:6*

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

## Thursday

*Psalm 147:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God;\*  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

<sup>2</sup> The Lord builds up Jerusalem;\*  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> He heals the broken-hearted,\*  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars;\*  
he gives to all of them their names.

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;\*  
his understanding is beyond measure.

<sup>6</sup> The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;\*  
he casts the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;\*  
make melody to our God on the lyre.

<sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with clouds,  
prepares rain for the earth,\*  
makes grass grow on the hills.

<sup>9</sup> He gives to the animals their food,\*  
and to the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup> His delight is not in the strength of the horse,\*  
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

<sup>11</sup> but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,\*  
in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

*Colossians 1:15-16*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.

## Friday

*Psalm 148*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;\*  
praise him in the heights!

<sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels;\*  
praise him, all his host!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;\*  
praise him, all you shining stars!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens,\*  
and you waters above the heavens!

<sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,\*  
for he commanded and they were created.

<sup>6</sup> He established them for ever and ever;\*  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

<sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,\*  
you sea monsters and all deeps,

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and frost,\*  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

<sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,\*  
fruit trees and all cedars!

<sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle,\*  
creeping things and flying birds!

<sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,<sup>8</sup>  
princes and all rulers of the earth!

<sup>12</sup> Young men and women alike,\*  
old and young together!

<sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;\*  
his glory is above earth and heaven.

<sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people,\*  
praise for all his faithful people,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!