

An Advent order for Compline or Night Prayer

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.**

A hymn may be sung

O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.

Refrain

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain

Or

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Or

A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure,
the Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure.

Repeat the hymn again!

*'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth to men!'*

The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high.
And Cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky.

Refrain

Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the Infant born in Beth'lem,
the Saviour and the Lord.

Refrain

And idol forms shall perish,
and error shall decay,
and Christ shall wield his sceptre,
our Lord and God for ay.

Refrain

Or

Long ago, prophets knew
Christ would come, born a Jew,
come to make all things new;
bear his People's burden,
freely love and pardon.

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
When he comes,
when he comes,
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,
this is God's timeless plan:
he will come, as a man,
born himself of woman,
God divinely human.

Chorus

Mary hail! Though afraid,
she believed, she obeyed.
In her womb, God is laid:
till the time expected,
nurtured and protected,
Chorus

Journey ends! Where afar
Bethl'em shines, like a star,
stable door stands ajar.
unborn Son of Mary,
Saviour, do not tarry!
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
Jesus comes!
Jesus comes!
We will make him welcome!

Sunday

Psalm 143

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord,
and in your faithfulness give ear to my
supplications; *
answer me in your righteousness.

2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, *
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.

3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground, *
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.

4 My spirit faints within me; *
my heart within me is desolate.

5 I remember the time past; I muse upon all your
deeds; *
I consider the works of your hands.

6 I stretch out my hands to you; *
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.

7 O Lord, make haste to answer me; my spirit fails
me; *
hide not your face from me
lest I be like those who go down to the Pit.

8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness in the
morning,
for in you I put my trust; *
show me the way I should walk in,
for I lift up my soul to you.

9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, *
for I flee to you for refuge.

10 Teach me to do what pleases you, for you are my
God; *
let your kindly spirit lead me on a level path.

11 Revive me, O Lord, for your name's sake; *
for your righteousness' sake, bring me out of trouble.

12 In your faithfulness, slay my enemies,
and destroy all the adversaries of my soul, *
for truly I am your servant.

Mark 13.35-end

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when
the master of the house will come, in the evening, or
at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he
may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And
what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Monday

Psalm 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge; *
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, *
upon those who are noble in heart.
- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after, *
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; *
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, *
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me; *
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; *
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death, *
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy *
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Tuesday

Psalm 28

- 1 To you I call, O Lord my rock;
be not deaf to my cry, *
lest, if you do not hear me,
I become like those who go down to the Pit.
- 2 Hear the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you *
when I lift up my hands to your holy of holies.
- 3 Do not snatch me away with the wicked,
with the evildoers, *
who speak peaceably with their neighbours,
while malice is in their hearts.
- 4 Repay them according to their deeds *
and according to the wickedness of their devices.
- 5 Reward them according to the work of their hands *
and pay them their just deserts.
- 6 They take no heed of the Lord's doings,
nor of the works of his hands; *
therefore shall he break them down
and not build them up.
- 7 Blessed be the Lord, *
for he has heard the voice of my prayer.
- 8 The Lord is my strength and my shield; *
my heart has trusted in him and I am helped;
- 9 Therefore my heart dances for joy *
and in my song will I praise him.
- 10 The Lord is the strength of his people, *
a safe refuge for his anointed.
- 11 Save your people and bless your inheritance; *
shepherd them and carry them for ever.

Isaiah 9:2

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

Wednesday

Psalm 40

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; *
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

2 He brought me out of the roaring pit,
out of the mire and clay; *
he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing
sure.

3 He has put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God; *
many shall see and fear
and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, *
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.

5 Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my
God.
How great your designs for us! *
There is none that can be compared with you.

6 If I were to proclaim them and tell of them *
they would be more than I am able to express.

7 Sacrifice and offering you do not desire *
but my ears you have opened;

8 Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not
required; *
then said I: 'Lo, I come.

9 'In the scroll of the book it is written of me
that I should do your will, O my God; *
I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'

10 I have declared your righteousness in the great
congregation; *
behold, I did not restrain my lips,
and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your
salvation; *
I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth
from the great congregation.

12 Do not withhold your compassion from me, O
Lord; *
let your love and your faithfulness always preserve
me,

13 For innumerable troubles have come about me;
my sins have overtaken me so that I cannot look
up; *
they are more in number than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails me.

14 Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.

15 Let them be ashamed and altogether dismayed
who seek after my life to destroy it; *
let them be driven back and put to shame
who wish me evil.

16 Let those who heap insults upon me *
be desolate because of their shame.

17 Let all who seek you rejoice in you and be glad; *
let those who love your salvation say always,
'The Lord is great.'

18 Though I am poor and needy, *
the Lord cares for me.

19 You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O my God, make no delay.

Isaiah 52:7-9

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces
peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

Thursday

Psalms 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my
supplication.
- 2 If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 But there is forgiveness with you, *
so that you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night watch for the morning, *
more than the night watch for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the Lord, *
for with the Lord there is mercy;
- 7 With him is plenteous redemption *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them with food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

Friday

Psalms 25

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust; *
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, *
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions, *
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.

- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; *
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right *
and teach his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
- 10 For your name's sake, O Lord, *
be merciful to my sin, for it is great.
- 11 Who are those who fear the Lord? *
Them will he teach in the way that they should
choose.
- 12 Their soul shall dwell at ease *
and their offspring shall inherit the land.
- 13 The hidden purpose of the Lord is for those who
fear him *
and he will show them his covenant.
- 14 My eyes are ever looking to the Lord, *
for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.
- 15 Turn to me and be gracious to me, *
for I am alone and brought very low.
- 16 The sorrows of my heart have increased; *
O bring me out of my distress.
- 17 Look upon my adversity and misery *
and forgive me all my sin.
- 18 Look upon my enemies, for they are many *
and they bear a violent hatred against me.
- 19 O keep my soul and deliver me; *
let me not be put to shame, for I have put my trust in
you.
- 20 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, *
for my hope has been in you.
- 21 Deliver Israel, O God, *
out of all his troubles.

Isaiah 2:3-5

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

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.

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

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.**

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

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.

Collect

Stir up your power, O God,
and come among us.
Heal our wounds,
calm our fears
and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer.

**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.]**

Blessing

Restore us again, O God of hosts;
show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
Bless and keep us, this night and always.
Amen.

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