

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Friday, 19 April 2024

Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr, 1012 [Lesser Festival]

Preparation

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

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used.

All 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.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

All 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.

The following or other suitable hymn may be sung.

Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep
Your watch around us while we sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight,
From fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe
That we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath
Our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 104

Refrain: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. □

O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!

21 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, □
and the sun knows the time for its setting.

22 You make darkness that it may be night, □
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.

23 The lions roar for their prey □
and seek their food from God.

24 The sun rises and they are gone □
to lay themselves down in their dens.

25 People go forth to their work □
and to their labour until the evening. R

26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! □

In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, □

and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.

28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan □

which you have made to play in the deep.

29 All of these look to you □

to give them their food in due season.

30 When you give it them, they gather it; □

you open your hand and they are filled with good.

31 When you hide your face they are troubled; □

when you take away their breath,

they die and return again to the dust.

32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, □

and you renew the face of the earth.

33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; □

may the Lord rejoice in his works; R

Refrain: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

Creator God,

send your Holy Spirit to renew this living world,

that the whole creation,

in its groaning and striving,

may know your loving purpose

and come to reflect your glory;

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

At the end of the psalmody the following is said or sung

All 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.

Scripture Reading

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4,5

The following responsory may be said

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

AllAlleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

AllHide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said or sung.

AllAlleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,

as he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.

1Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ☩

your word has been fulfilled.

2My own eyes have seen the salvation ☩

which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3A light to reveal you to the nations ☩

and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

AllGlory 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.

AllAlleluia. The Lord is risen, alleluia,
as he promised to you. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Merciful God,
who raised up your servant Alphege
to be a pastor of your people
and gave him grace to suffer for justice and true religion:
grant that we who celebrate his martyrdom
may know the power of the risen Christ in our hearts
and share his peace in lives offered to your service;
through 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.
AllAmen.

or

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.
AllAmen.

or

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AllAmen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
Allfor you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
Allfor the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,
Allso do we look for you, O Christ.

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

May the risen Lord Jesus bless us.
May he watch over us and renew us
as he renews the whole of creation.
May our hearts and lives echo his love.
AllAmen.

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