

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

*As we light our candles we say together:*

The eternal God is your refuge,  
and underneath are the everlasting arms. *Deuteronomy 33:27*

## **Opening Prayers**

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.*

*Sing or follow the hymn:*

**Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt;  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive;  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, of that free love  
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
here for a season, then above:  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

## **The Psalms**

Psalm 139

**1 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me:  
you know when I sit or when I stand,  
you comprehend my thoughts long before.**

**2 You discern my path and the places where I rest:  
you are acquainted with all my ways.**

**3 For there is not a word on my tongue:  
but you, Lord, know it altogether.**

**4 You have encompassed me behind and before:  
and have laid your hand upon me.**

**5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me:  
so high that I cannot endure it.**

**6 Where shall I go from your spirit:  
or where shall I flee from your presence?**

**7 If I ascend into heaven you are there:  
if I make my bed in the grave you are there also.**

**8 If I spread out my wings towards the morning:**

or dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

**9 Even there your hand shall lead me:  
and your right hand shall hold me.**

**10 If I say 'Surely the darkness will cover me:  
and the night will enclose me',**

**11 The darkness is no darkness with you,  
but the night is as clear as the day:  
the darkness and the light are both alike.**

**12 For you have created my inward parts:  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**13 For so many marvels I thank you;  
a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders.**

**17 How deep are your thoughts to me, O God:  
and how great is the sum of them!**

**18 Were I to count them, they are more in number than the sand:  
were I to come to the end, I would still be with you.**

**23 Search me out, O God, and know my heart:  
put me to the proof and know my thoughts.**

**24 Look well lest there be any way of wickedness in me:  
and lead me in the way that is everlasting.**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.***

### ***The reading***

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him

on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

*Mark 3: 1-5*

*A period of silence is kept*

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

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

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

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

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

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

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

### ***The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon)***

**Refrain:**

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

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

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

**3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦  
and the glory of your people Israel. Luke 2.29-32**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now**

and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Refrain:**

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

## ***Prayers***

*Intercessions and thanksgivings are offered here.*

Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this night,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick,  
give rest to the weary,  
sustain the dying,  
calm the suffering,  
and pity the distressed;  
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.  
Amen

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us  
through the silent hours of this night,  
so that we who are wearied  
by the changes and chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer*

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.

*A period of silence is kept*

Bless us this night, O God,  
and those whom we know and love.  
Bless us this night, O God,  
and those with whom we are not at peace.  
Bless us this night, O God,  
and every human family.  
Bless us with deep sleep.  
Bless us with dreams that will heal our soul.  
Bless us with the night's silent messages of eternity  
that we may be set free by love.  
Bless us in the night, O God,  
that we may be set free to love. Amen

*by John Philip Newell*

## ***The Conclusion and Blessing***

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

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.  
*All Amen.*