

Compline

(Prayer before retiring for the night)

Introductory verses

Be swift, O God, to save us,
Come quickly, Lord, to help us.
Our help is in the Name of the Lord,
Who made Heaven and Earth.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit;
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.**

Penitential prayers

**Gathered at this day's end
We come to you,
God of lamp and candle,
And confess the times we have failed.**

Maker of Sun and Moon,
Maker of Day and Night
You faithfully forgive the faults
Of your people who turn to you.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Then the following meditation, or some hymn such as “To you before the end of day” (Hymns and Psalms 639).

**I am placing my soul and my body
On thy sanctuary this night, O God,
On thy sanctuary, O Jesus Christ,
On thy sanctuary, O Spirit of perfect truth:
The Three who would defend my cause,
Nor turn their backs upon me.**

**Thou, Father, who art kind and just,
Thou, Son, who didst overcome death,
Thou, Holy Spirit of power,
Be keeping me this night from harm:
The Three who would justify me
Keeping me this night and always.**

Prayer

Night comes, and earth falls to rest:
You bless us with gifts of starlight and moonlight
You bless us with gifts of silence and sleep
You bless us, sheltering us in the shade of your wings
Keep us ever in your presence this night. Amen.

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
Shall say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,

Final Prayer

A. Darkness descends upon our land,
And dims the creation you have made,
Grant us your light Lord,
That we may see to steward this earth,
And all you have entrusted to us,
Grant us your light Lord,
That we may be your lanterns in the night time
Revealing your radiance in all our acts. **Amen.**

Or

B. Lord, visit where we dwell this night,
And expel every snare of our spiritual foe;
Send your angels to protect us and preserve us in peace;
And bestow your blessing upon us;
This we ask through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements

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my God, in whom I put my trust.”

**For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence.
He shall cover you with his wings
and you shall be safe under his feathers;
His faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.**

You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,
nor of the arrow that flies by day;
Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.

**Though a thousand fall at your side
and ten thousand at your right hand,
yet it shall not come near you.
Your eyes have only to behold
to see the reward of the wicked.**

Because you have made the Lord your refuge
and the Most High your stronghold,
There shall no evil happen to you,
neither shall any plague come near your tent.

**For he shall give his angels charge over you,
to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you in their hands,
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
You shall tread upon the lion and adder;**

the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

“Because they have set their love upon me,
therefore will I deliver them;
I will lift them up, because they know my name.
They will call upon me and I will answer them;

**“I am with them in trouble,
I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
With long life will I satisfy them
and show them my salvation.”**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit:
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.**

The following or some other reading

And God said, ‘Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.’ And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.
(Genesis 1.14-18)

Nunc Dimittis (The Song of Simeon)

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 be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit:
**As it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be forever. Amen.**

[If prayers are desired, the following may be used, or else some other short prayers of praise

You are blessed Lord God of our Fathers:
May God be praised and glorified above all forever.

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit:
May God be praised and glorified above all forever.

Blessed are you, O Lord, in the firmament of Heaven:
May God be praised and glorified above all forever.]