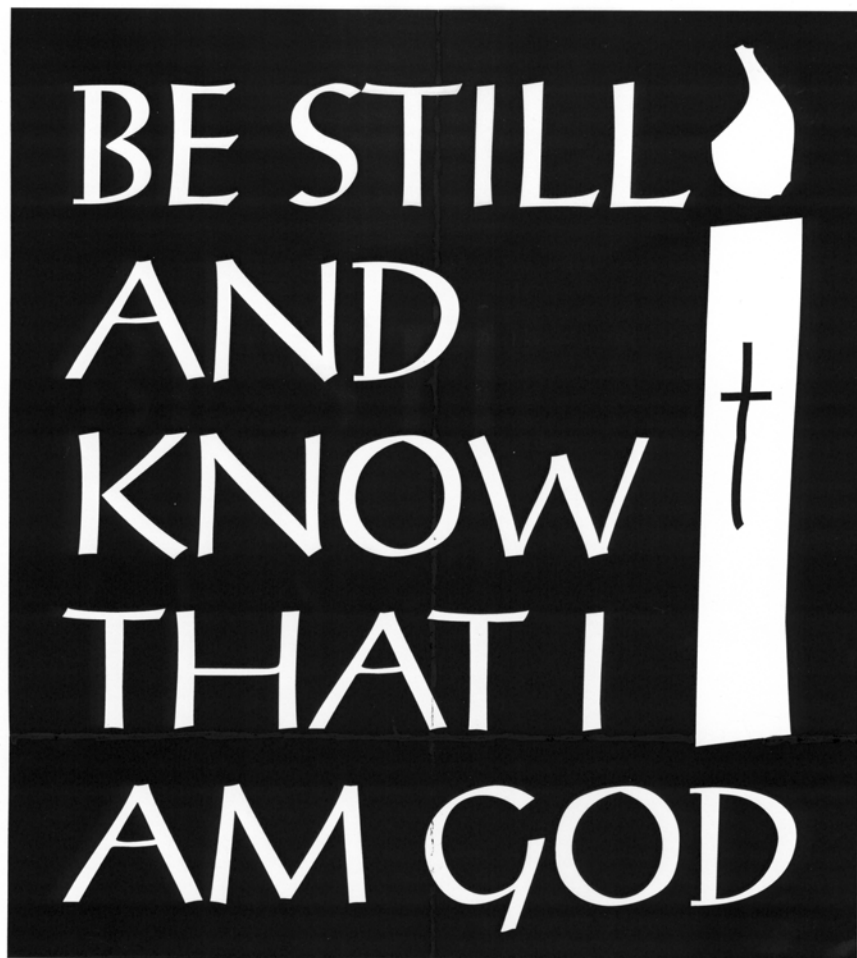


Compline:



An Order for Night Prayer

When all have gathered, the leader begins;

others respond with the portions in bold type.

The God of peace grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

the maker of heaven and earth.

The angels of God guard us through the night,

and quiet the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide,

to lead us to peace and to glory.

It is but lost labour that we haste to rise up early,

and so late take our rest, and eat the bread of anxiety.

For those beloved of God are given gifts

even while they sleep.

The Penitential Rite

O Holy One,

we call to you and name you as eternal,

ever-present, and boundless in love.

Yet there are times, O God,

when we fail to recognize you in the moment,

because we are so preoccupied with of our daily lives.

Sometimes shame clenches tightly around our hearts,

and we hide our true feelings.

Sometimes fear makes us small,

and we miss the chance to speak from our strength.

Sometimes doubt invades our hopefulness,

and we degrade our own wisdom.

Holy God, in the daily round from sunrise to sunset,

remind us again of your holy presence hovering near us and in us.

Free us from shame and self-doubt.

Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities

to live honestly, to act courageously,

and to speak from our convictions.

In your name we pray. Amen.

Psalm 16.1, 5–11

Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; *

I have said to the Lord, “You are my Lord,
my good above all other.”

**O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; *
it is you who uphold my lot.**

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; *
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

**I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; *
my heart teaches me, night after night.**

I have set the Lord always before me; *
because he is at my right hand I shall not fall.

**My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; *
my body also shall rest in hope.**

For you will not abandon me to the grave, *
nor let your holy one see the Pit.

**You will show me the path of life; *
in your presence there is fullness of joy,
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

Glory to the Father,

and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.

Amen.

Ephesians 3.16–19

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Thanks be to God.

Silence

Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit;
For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.

Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye;
Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Preserve us, O God, waking,
**and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

The Song of Simeon

Luke 2.29–32

**Lord, now 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 will be for ever. Amen.**

Statement of Faith

I believe in God...
**the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

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 hope, new possibilities. In your name we pray. Amen.

All offer prayers or thanksgiving, silently or aloud

Be present, 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 in your eternal changelessness;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

I will lie down in peace and take my rest,

for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

May God's name be praised beyond the furthest star,

glorified and exalted above all for ever.

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**