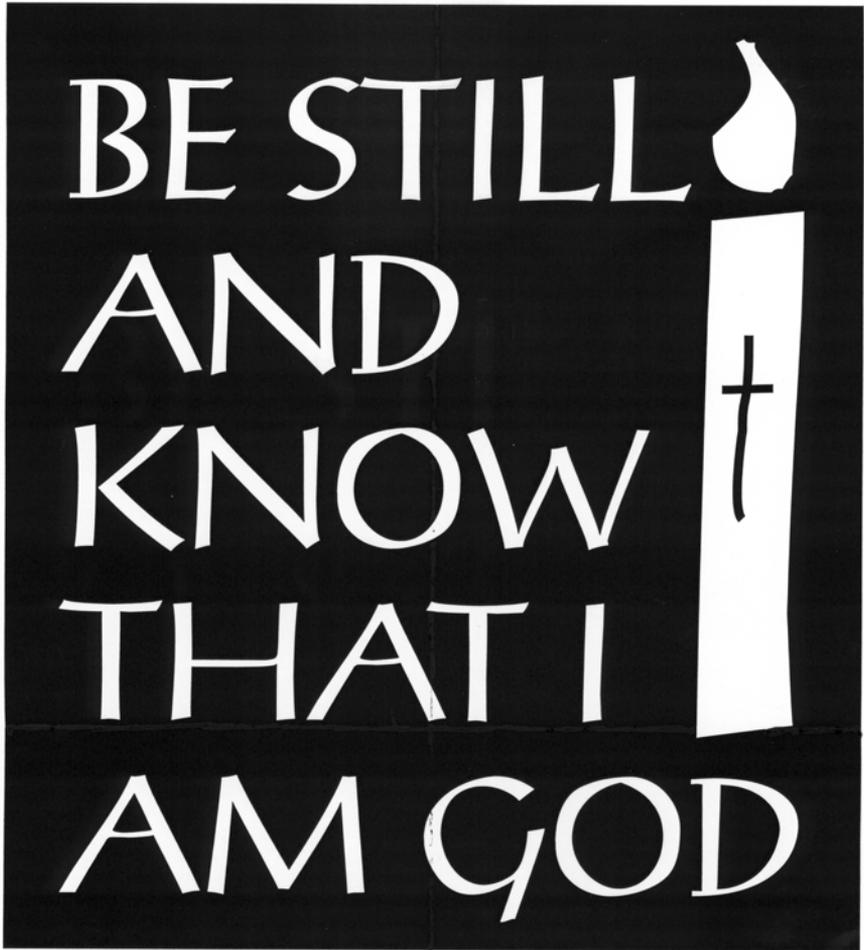


# Compline:



An Order for Night Prayer

Week 3

*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**

Dear God, we thank you for all that is good,  
for our creation and our humanity,  
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,  
for the gifts of life and of one another,  
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.

**Merciful God,  
we have not loved you with our whole heart,  
nor our neighbours as ourselves.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
forgive what we have been,  
accept us as we are,  
and guide what we shall be.**

O God of mercy,  
you forgive our past sin,  
you strengthen us in your gift of eternal life,  
you shape us for glory.  
O God of mercy, we thank you. **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.**

Matthew 11.28–30

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

**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.**

**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**

We believe...  
**that God is present in the darkness before dawn;  
in the waiting and uncertainty  
where fear and courage join hands, conflict and caring link arms,  
and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

**We believe in a with-us God  
who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.  
We affirm a faith that takes us beyond a safe place:  
into action, into vulnerability and onto the streets.**

**We commit ourselves to work for change  
and put ourselves on the line;  
to bear responsibility, take risks, live powerfully and face humiliation;  
to stand with those on the edge;  
to choose life and be used by the Spirit  
for God's new community of hope. 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.**

O God, your unfailing providence  
sustains the earth which nurtures us and the life we live:  
watch over those, both night and day,  
who work while others sleep,  
and grant that we may never forget  
that our common life depends upon each other's toil;  
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.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (paraphrase)

**God, who cares for us,  
The wonder of whose presence fills us with awe.  
Let kindness, justice and love shine in our world.  
Let your secrets be known here as they are in heaven.  
Give us the food and the hope we need for today.  
Forgive us our wrongdoing  
as we forgive the wrongs done to us.  
Protect us from pride and from despair  
and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.  
In you is truth, meaning, glory and power,  
while worlds come and go. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**