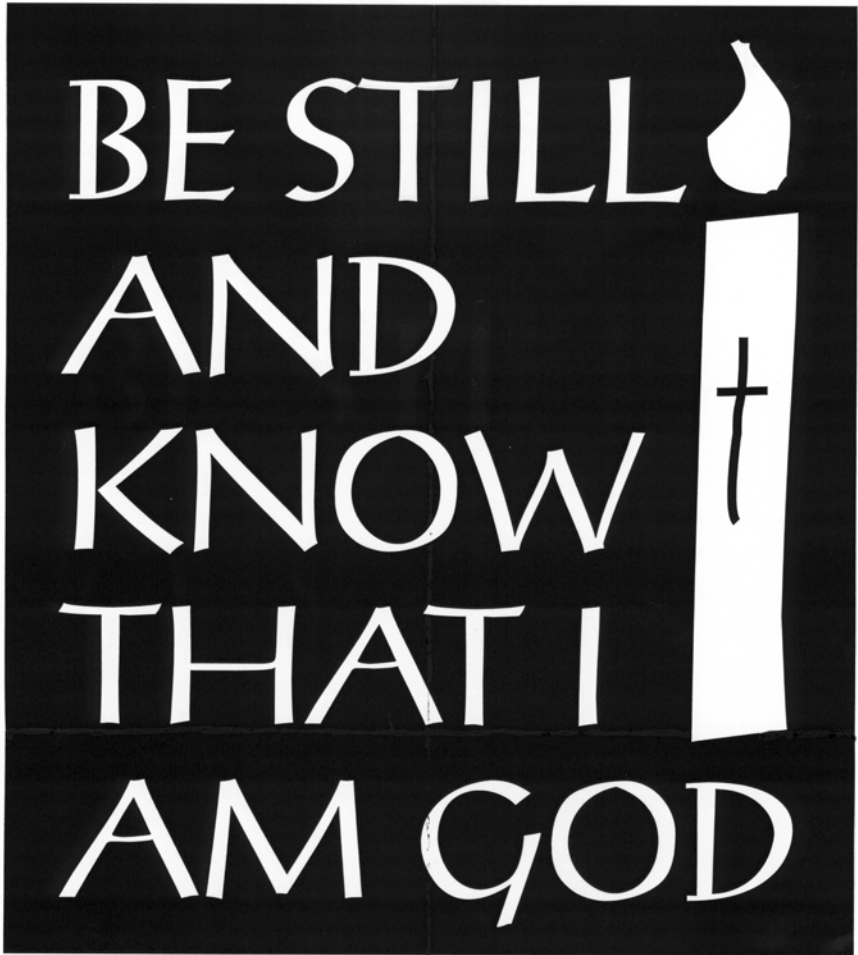


Compline:



An Order for Night Prayer

Week 4

*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

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:
**Creator God, in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgment;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord enrich you with grace,
and nourish you with many blessings;
the Lord defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; *

I shall not be in want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.**

He revives my soul *

and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; ***

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those
who trouble me; *

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

**Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, ***

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to God,

Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

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

Amen.

2 Corinthians 4.6–10

It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

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 God,
**Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.
Amen.**

Statement of Faith

We believe in God,
**who is older than eternity
and younger than our next breath;
who is beyond describing
yet knows us all by name;
who inspires faith
yet cannot be contained by religion.**

We believe in Jesus Christ,
flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone;
**he came in the body
to give worth to every human life.
He touched the untouchable
loved the unlovable
and endured slander, persecution and death.**

We believe that God's Kingdom comes on earth
through Christ's suffering love.
**He rose from the grave as living proof
that what is laid down in faith
will be raised in glory.
He ascended to heaven
to be present in all times to all people.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into truth and freedom,
who gives good gifts to all God's children,
who works through prayer and politics,
through justice, care of creation
and the healing of the nations.

We celebrate the potential God has given:
the life in our bodies,
the yearning in our souls,
the promise of good things in store
for those who love and serve their maker. 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

Look down, O God, from your heavenly throne,
and illumine this night with your celestial brightness;
that by night as by day
your people may glorify your holy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God, support us all the day long of this earthly life,
until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes,
the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then, O God, in your mercy,
grant us safe lodging, a holy rest,
and peace at the last;
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)

Eternal Spirit

**Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven.
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe.
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth.
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings.
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours, no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ's compassion to the world
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about
doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now. **Amen.**