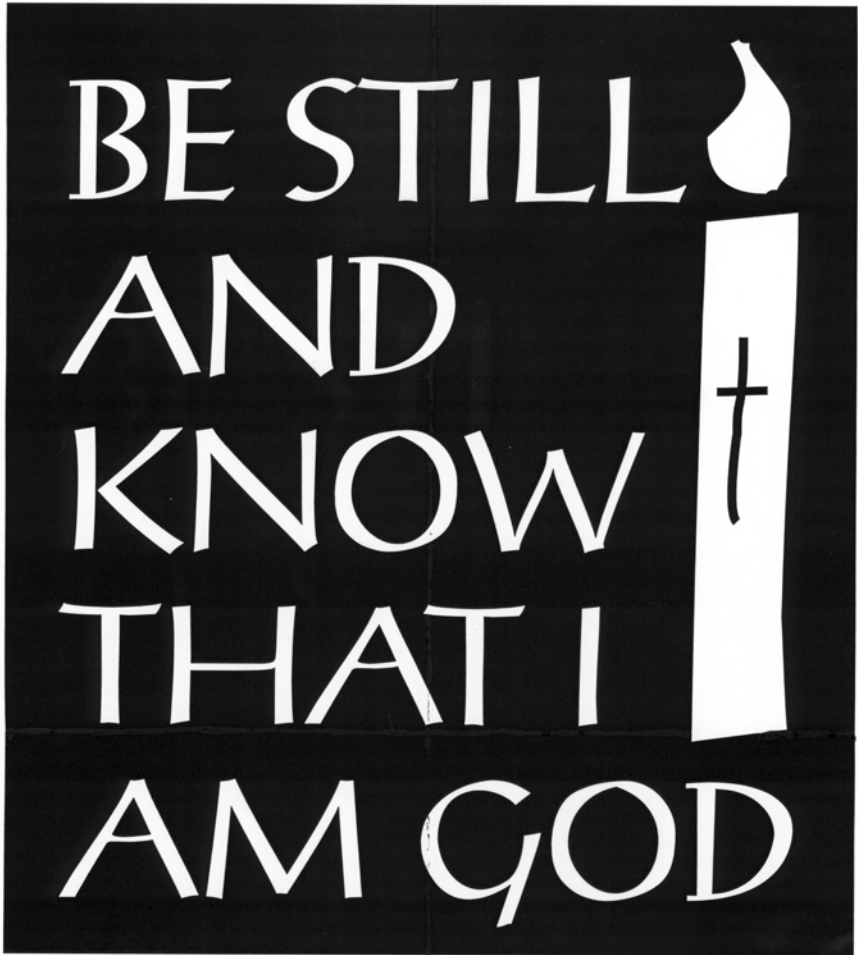


Compline:



An Order for Night Prayer

Week 5

*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

Let us confess our sins
against God and our neighbour,
confident in God's forgiveness.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness
in each other, in ourselves,
and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Psalm 42.1-7, 10

As the deer longs for the water-brooks, *
so longs my soul for you, O God.

**My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?**

My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me,
“Where now is your God!”

**I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude
and led them into the house of God,**

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.

**Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?**

Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him,
who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

**The Lord grants his loving-kindness in the daytime; *
in the night season his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.**

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

We believe in God
in whom is power and compassion.

We believe in the Creator
**who gave birth to the universe,
set solar systems dancing in space,
shaped molecules and mountains,
and conceived beauty beyond our imagining.
God's power topples tyrants,
and brings down walls of separation;
God's love embodies the tenderness
of a mother and father,
encouraging and caring for each of us.**

We believe in Jesus,
**born in obscurity in an occupied land;
a human being, vulnerable to hunger thirst,
persecution and grief.
He understood the power of love
and confronted the powers of evil,
spoke the truth with courage and clarity,
forgave his enemies and changed lives.
In his living, dying and rising again
he showed love strong enough to save the world.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit
**who sustains, comforts and empowers us,
opens the scriptures, opens our minds,
and illuminates earth's darkness.**

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

Visit this place, O God,
and drive far from it all snares of the enemy;
let your holy angels dwell within
to preserve us in peace;
and let your blessing be upon us always;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Come, O Spirit of God,
and make within us your dwelling place and home.
May our darkness be dispelled by your light,
and our troubles calmed by your peace;
may all evils be redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ,
and all dying glorified by his risen life. **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)

**Loving God,
within and around us, we revere you.
We seek to live life as you would want us to do;
with love and respect for all people
and all things in the universe.
May we find each day sufficient for our needs,
and find forgiveness when we do wrong,
just as we forgive those who do wrong to us.
In times of trouble, may we centre our lives in you.
For your being is love,
which comes with strength and with beauty,
throughout eternity. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Life is short.
We don't have much time to gladden the hearts
of those who walk this way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind. **Amen.**