

WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2020: COMPLINE

PREPARATION

OPENING PRAYER

Stand

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

A SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith. *1 Peter 5: 8, 9*

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.

Come to us this night Lord;
come to us with light.

Speak to us this night Lord;
speak to us your truth.

You are our hiding place;
**you protect us from trouble
and surround us with songs of deliverance.**

CONFESSION

A prayerful examination of the past day may be undertaken after which the following words of penitence are used

He who conceals his sins does not prosper;
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

We confess our sins before you Lord;
we confess them all.

sins of commission and sins of omission;
we confess them all.

Cleanse us and forgive us O loving Saviour;
cleanse and forgive us.

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
rejoices at repentance and declares his acceptance.
The dead are alive, the lost are found.
His goodness and mercy will follow you all the days of your life,
and you will live in the house of the Lord for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM

Psalm 80

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
2. Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

3 Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.

**4. Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

5 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

6. You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

7 You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

**8. Turn us again, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

9 You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.

10. You made room around it,
and when it had taken root, it filled the land.

11 The hills were covered with its shadow
and the cedars of God by its boughs.

12. It stretched out its branches to the Sea
and its tendrils to the River.

13 Why then have you broken down its wall,
so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

14. The wild boar out of the wood tears it off,
and all the insects of the field devour it.

15 Turn again, O God of hosts,
look down from heaven and behold;

16. Cherish this vine which your right hand has planted,
and the branch that you made so strong for yourself.

17 Let those who burnt it with fire, who cut it down,
perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

18. Let your hand be upon the man at your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for yourself.

19 And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your name.

**20 Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Glory be to the Father, ■
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning, ■
is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

A READING

Matthew 11: 2-19

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. Let anyone with ears listen!

‘But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.’

ADDRESS

RESPONSORY

Stand

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.

HYMN

Before the ending of the day,
creator of the world, we pray
that thou with wonted love wouldst keep
thy watch around us while we sleep.

O let no evil dreams be near,
or phantoms of the night appear;
our ghostly enemy restrain,
lest aught of sin our bodies stain.

Almighty Father, hear our cry
through Jesus Christ our Lord most high,
who with the Holy Ghost and thee
doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

VERSCLE AND RESPONSE

The following responsory may be said:

Keep me as the apple of an eye.
Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.

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

THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

NUNC DIMITTIS *The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, ■
according to thy word.
- 2 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ■
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
- 3 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles ■
and to be the glory of thy 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 ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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

PRAYER

Kneel

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers,
to be praised and glorified above all for ever;

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Let us praise him and magnify him for ever.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven
to be praised and glorified above all for ever.

The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.
Amen.

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us
that thy people may rejoice in thee?
O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, hear our prayer
and let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

**Lord, keep us safe this night,
secure from all our fears.
May angels guard us while we sleep,
till morning light appears. Amen.**

**Though the day Thy love has spared us.
now we lay us down to rest;
through the silent watches guard us;**

**let no foe our peace molest;
Jesus, Thou our Guardian be;
sweet it is to trust in Thee. Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR THE BLESSING OF SLEEP

Grant us Lord tonight your gift of sweet, uninterrupted sleep,
that free from the anxieties, stress and busy-ness of the day's activities,
our minds and bodies may be refreshed and rejuvenated for tomorrow's work.
Grant that we shall enjoy tonight's sleep and thank you in the morning
as we stretch ourselves in readiness for the task ahead.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF ST AUGUSTINE

Almighty God,
to turn away from you is to fall,
to turn towards you is to rise,
and to stand in you is to live for ever.
Grant us in all our duties your help,
in all our problems your guidance
in all our dangers your protection,
and in all our sorrows your peace;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE ENDING

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

DISMISSAL

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

BLESSING

**Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself,
and God our Father,
who loved us and gave eternal comfort
and good hope through grace,
comfort our hearts and establish them
in every good work and word.
And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us now, and for evermore. Amen.**