

WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2020: COMPLINE

PREPARATION

The angels of God guard us through the night
and quieten the powers of darkness.

The Spirit of God be our guide
to lead us to peace and to glory.

Silence

My brothers and sisters,
Our help is in the name of the eternal God,
who is making the heavens and the earth.

Dear God,
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.

O thou, most holy and beloved,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way
my bright evening star.

Silence

We have wounded your love.
O God, heal us.

We stumble in the darkness.
Light of the world transfigure us.

We forget that we are your home.
Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,
to the very secret of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame,
burn into us,

OPENING PRAYER

PENITENCE

INVOCATION

Cleansing wind,
blow through us,
Fountain of water,
well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

Eternal Spirit,
flow through our being and open our lips,
that our mouths may proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the God of love.
Alleluia, alleluia.

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM

Psalm 142

Refrain: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

1 I cry a|loud •to the | Lord; ■
to the Lord I | make my | suppli|cation.
2. I pour out my com|plaint be|fore him ■
and | tell him | of my | trouble.

3 When my spirit faints within me, you | know my | path; ■
in the way wherein I walk | have they | laid a | snare for me.
4 I look to my right hand, and find | no one who | knows me; ■
I have no place to flee to, and | no one | cares for my | soul.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

5. I cry out to you, O | Lord, and | say: ■
‘You are my refuge, my | portion •in the | land of the | living.
6 ‘Listen to my cry, for I am brought | very | low; ■
save me from my persecutors, for they | are too | strong | for me.
7 ‘Bring my | soul •out of | prison, ■
that I may give | thanks | to your | name;
7a When you have dealt | bountifully | with me, ■
then shall the | righteous | gather a|round me.’

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name.

Psalm-Prayer

God of compassion,
you regard the forsaken
and give hope to the crushed in spirit;
hear those who cry to you in distress
and bring your ransomed people to sing your glorious praise,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

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 9: 2-8

And just then some people were carrying a paralysed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, ‘Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.’ Then some of the scribes said to themselves, ‘This man is blaspheming.’ But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, ‘Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, “Your sins are forgiven”, or to say, “Stand up and walk”? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he then said to the paralytic—‘Stand up, take your bed and go to your home.’ And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

ADDRESS

RESPONSORY

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

HYMN 699 (SAID)

Hail, gladdening Light, of his pure glory poured
who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blessed,
Holiest of Holies, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
the lights of evening round us shine,
we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung
with undefiled tongue,
Son of our God, giver of life, alone:
therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

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

Preserve us, O God, 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 Now, Lord, you let your servant | go in | peace: ■
your | word has | been ful|filled.

2 My own eyes have | seen the · sal|vation ■
which you have prepared in the | sight of | every | people.

3 A light to re|veal 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 shall be for ever. Amen.

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

PRAYERS

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry.
Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.
I will lie down in peace and take my rest,
for it is in God alone that I dwell unafraid.

COLLECTS

**Be present, Spirit of God, within us,
that our homes may be your dwelling places where
all darkness is penetrated by your light,
all troubles calmed by your peace,
all evil redeemed by your love,
all pain transformed in your suffering,
and all dying glorified in your risen life. Amen.**

God our Creator, our centre, our friend,
we thank you for our good life,
for those who are dear to us,
for our dead, and for all who have helped and influenced us.
We thank you for the measure of freedom we have,
and the extent to which, under your guidance, we control our lives;
and most of all we thank you for the faith that is in us,
for our awareness of you and our hope in you.
Keep us, we pray you, thankful and hopeful
and useful until our lives shall end. **Amen.**

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.

THE ENDING

Almighty and merciful God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and for evermore. **Amen.**

BLESSING

DISMISSAL

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 joys, new possibilities.**

In your name we pray.
Amen.