

WEDNESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2021: COMPLINE

PREPARATION

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

OPENING PRAYER

A SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith.
1 Peter 5: 8, 9a

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Come, praise the Lord, all God's servants
who stand at night in the house of God.

Lift up your hands in worship
and praise the Lord.

May God, the Maker of heaven and earth
bless you from Zion.

May God be praised by day,
let God be praised by night.

Let God be praised when we lie down,
let God be praised when we rise up.

based on Psalm 134

THE WORD OF GOD

PSALM

Psalm 81

Sing merrily to God our strength, ♦
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
Take up the song and sound the timbrel, ♦
the tuneful lyre with the harp.
Blow the trumpet at the new moon, ♦
as at the full moon, upon our solemn feast day.
For this is a statute for Israel, ♦
a law of the God of Jacob,
The charge he laid on the people of Joseph, ♦
when they came out of the land of Egypt.
I heard a voice I did not know, that said: ♦
'I eased their shoulder from the burden;
their hands were set free from bearing the load.
'You called upon me in trouble and I delivered you; ♦
I answered you from the secret place of thunder
and proved you at the waters of Meribah.

**‘Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you: ♦
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!
‘There shall be no strange god among you; ♦
you shall not worship a foreign god.
‘I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up from the land of Egypt; ♦
open your mouth wide and I shall fill it.’
But my people would not hear my voice ♦
and Israel would not obey me.
So I sent them away in the stubbornness of their hearts, ♦
and let them walk after their own counsels.
O that my people would listen to me, ♦
that Israel would walk in my ways!
Then I should soon put down their enemies ♦
and turn my hand against their adversaries.
Those who hate the Lord would be humbled before him, ♦
and their punishment would last for ever.
But Israel would I feed with the finest wheat ♦
and with honey from the rock would I satisfy them.**

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

John 3: 22-36

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he spent some time there with them and baptized. John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because water was abundant there; and people kept coming and were being baptized— John, of course, had not yet been thrown into prison.

Now a discussion about purification arose between John’s disciples and a Jew. They came to John and said to him, ‘Rabbi, the one who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you testified, here he is baptizing, and all are going to him.’ John answered, ‘No one can receive anything except what has been given from heaven. You yourselves are my witnesses that I said, “I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him.” He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease.’

ADDRESS

VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

Grant, Eternal God, that we may lie down in peace,
and let us rise up to life renewed.

Spread over us the shelter of your peace;
guide us with your wise counsel and, for your name's sake, be our help.

Shield us from sickness and war, from famine and distress,
and keep us from wrongdoing.

You are our Guardian and Deliverer, a gracious and merciful God.
**Guard our going out and our coming in,
that now and always, we may have life and 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.**

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

PRAYER

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.**

CONFESSION

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

**We confess to God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
through our own grievous fault.
Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.**

Help us, our Creator, to return to your teaching;
draw us near, our King, to your service;
And bring us back into your presence in perfect repentance.

**We praise you, O God:
you delight in repentance.**

Forgive us, our Creator, for we have sinned;
pardon us, our King, for we have transgressed;
for you are always ready to pardon and forgive.

**We praise you, O God,
gracious and generous in forgiveness.**

Heal us, O God, and we shall be healed;
**save us, and we shall be saved;
grant us a perfect healing from all our wounds.**

May the Almighty and merciful God grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins,
time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Bless this year for us, Eternal God:
may its produce bring us welfare.
Bestow your blessing on the earth,
that it may have a future and a hope,
and that all may share its abundance.
**We praise you, O God;
you bless the earth from year to year.**

Let righteous judges sit among your people,
and counsellors of peace throughout the world.
Then you alone will reign over us in love and compassion.
**We praise you, Sovereign God:
you love righteousness and justice.**

Let those who plan evil have no hope of success;
may all who go astray find their way back to you;
and let all tyranny soon end.
**We praise you, O God,
whose will is that evil shall vanish from the earth.**

Let righteousness blossom and flourish,
and let the light of redemption shine forth
according to your word;
for your redeeming power is our constant hope.

**We praise you, O God:
You have caused the day of redemption to dawn.**

Hear our voice, Eternal God;
have compassion upon us,
and accept our prayers with favour and mercy,
and let us not leave your presence empty,
for you are a God who listens to all who pray in faith.

**We praise you, O God:
You harken to prayer.**

Eternal God,
be gracious to your people,
and in your love accept our prayers.
May our worship now and always
be acceptable in your sight. **Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

All pray in silence.

**May the words of our mouths,
and the meditation of our hearts,
be acceptable to you, O God,
our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.**

REMEMBERING

As we worship before you, O God, we think of those who once shared with us the joys and burdens of life, and who are no longer in or midst.

The sorrow of bereavement is softened by the bond of love which continues to unite us with our dear ones, and by our cherished memories of them which we will always carry in our hearts. May all that was good in their lives remain with us as an influence for good.

O God, grant consolation to those who are in sorrow, and light to those in darkness. Teach us at all times to put our trust in you, and to praise your name. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN (SAID)

**Eternal God, who reigned before
your will had caused the world to be:
already then you reigned supreme
in undisputed sovereignty.**

And when the universe has ceased,
you will still reign in majesty;
for as you were, so will you be
from now until eternity.

And you are One, there is none else,
no equal standing at your side,
without beginning, without end,
all might and rule in you reside.

My living and redeeming God,
my shelter on a stormy day,
my banner and my refuge still,
my cup of comfort when I pray.

Into your hand I place my soul,
asleep, awake, for you are near,
and with my soul, my body too:
you are my God, I shall not fear.

THE ENDING

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.
For it is you, Lord, only, who makes us dwell in safety.

The Lord be with you
and with your spirit.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May God bless you with all good,
and keep you from all evil.
May God teach your hearts the meaning of life,
and grant you knowledge of the Infinite.
May God reach out to you with tenderness,
that you may have enduring peace. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

BLESSING