

WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022: 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.

OPENING PRAYER

PENITENCE

INVOCATION

Living flame,
burn into us,
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 39

Refrain: Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days.

1 I said, 'I will keep watch over my ways, ♦
so that I offend not with my tongue.

2 'I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, ♦
while the wicked are in my sight.'

3 So I held my tongue and said nothing; ♦
I kept silent but to no avail.

Refrain: Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days.

4 My distress increased, my heart grew hot within me; ♦
while I mused, the fire was kindled
and I spoke out with my tongue:

5 'Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days, ♦
that I may know how short my time is.

6 'You have made my days but a handbreadth,
and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight; ♦
truly, even those who stand upright are but a breath.

7 'We walk about like a shadow
and in vain we are in turmoil; ♦
we heap up riches and cannot tell who will gather them.

Refrain: Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days.

8 ‘And now, what is my hope? ♦
Truly my hope is even in you.

9 ‘Deliver me from all my transgressions ♦
and do not make me the taunt of the fool.’

10 I fell silent and did not open my mouth, ♦
for surely it was your doing.

11 Take away your plague from me; ♦
I am consumed by the blows of your hand.

12 With rebukes for sin you punish us;
like a moth you consume our beauty; ♦
truly, everyone is but a breath.

Refrain: Lord, let me know my end and the number of my days.

13 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; ♦
hold not your peace at my tears.

14 For I am but a stranger with you, ♦
a wayfarer, as all my forebears were.

15 Turn your gaze from me, that I may be glad again, ♦
before I go my way and am no more.

Refrain: He brought forth his people with joy, his chosen ones with singing.

Psalm-Prayer

O Christ, Son of the living God,
help us when we are too cast down to pray,
and grant that we may trust you all our days,
for you are with us in our living and our dying,
Jesus, Lord and God.

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 10: 5-15

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff;

for labourers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgement than for that town.

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.