

# Night Prayer of the Catholic Church (Compline)

The Divine Office, also called the Liturgy of the Hours, is the public prayer of the Church intended to offer worship to God and to sanctify the day. It consists of hymns, biblical and extra-biblical readings, and prayers offered at set times over the course of the day (Morning, Evening, and Night.)

The Liturgy of the Hours is required for those possessing holy orders (deacons, priests, and bishops) and for those men and women in religious orders (CIC 1174). For others it is highly recommended.

## Night Prayer (Compline)

### INTRODUCTION

God, + come to my assistance.  
– Lord, make haste to help me.

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. Alleluia.

### Examination of Conscience

A brief examination of conscience may be made. In the communal celebration of the Office, a Penitential Rite using the formulas of the Mass may be inserted here.

I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The absolution by the Priest follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.  
– Amen.

## HYMN

We praise you, Father, for your gifts  
Of dusk and nightfall over earth,  
Foreshadowing the mystery  
Of death that leads to endless day.

Within your hands we rest secure;  
In quiet sleep our strength renew;  
Yet give your people hearts that wake  
In love to you, unsleeping Lord.

Your glory may we ever seek  
In rest, as in activity,  
Until its fullness is revealed,  
O source of life, O Trinity.

**Tune:** Te lucis ante terminum (plainchant) L.M.

**Music:** Anonymous, Gregorian

**Text:** West Malling Abbey

## PSALMODY

**Ant. In you, my God, my body will rest in hope.**

Psalms 16

God is my portion, my inheritance

The Father raised up Jesus from the dead and broke the bonds of death (Acts 2:24).

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you. †  
I say to the Lord: “You are my God. \*  
My happiness lies in you alone.”

He has put into my heart a marvellous love \*  
for the faithful ones who dwell in his land.  
Those who choose other gods increase their sorrows. †  
Never will I offer their offerings of blood. \*  
Never will I take their name upon my lips.

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup; \*  
it is you yourself who are my prize.  
The lot marked out for me is my delight: \*  
welcome indeed the heritage that falls to me!

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel, \*  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord ever in my sight: \*  
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm.

And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad; \*  
even my body shall rest in safety.  
For you will not leave my soul among the dead, \*  
nor let your beloved know decay.

You will show me the path of life, †  
the fullness of joy in your presence, \*  
at your right hand happiness for ever.

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.

**Ant. In you, my God, my body will rest in hope.**

### **READING**

1 Thessalonians 5:23

May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May he preserve you whole and entire, spirit, soul, and body, irreproachable at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **RESPONSORY**

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.  
– Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.  
– I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
– Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.

### **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

**Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.**

Canticle of Simeon  
Luke 2:29-32

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

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.

**Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake, we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Lord God,  
send peaceful sleep  
to refresh our tired bodies.  
May your help always renew us  
and keep us strong in your service.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
– Amen.

## **BLESSING**

May the all-powerful Lord  
grant us a restful night  
and a peaceful death.  
– Amen.

Antiphon or song in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,  
our life, our sweetness, and our hope.  
To you do we cry,  
poor banished children of Eve.  
To you do we send up our sighs  
mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
your eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this exile  
show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving,  
O sweet Virgin Mary.

**OR:**

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you!  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.

**OR:**

Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae;  
vita, dulcedo et spes nostra, salve,  
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Evae.  
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.

Eia ergo, advocata nostra,  
illos tuos misericordes oculos  
ad nos converte.  
Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,  
nobis post hoc exilium ostende.  
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria.

**OR:**

Loving mother of the Redeemer,  
gate of heaven, star of the sea,  
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.  
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,  
yet remained a virgin after as before.  
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,  
have pity on us poor sinners.