

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) for Passiontide

Preparation

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who made heaven and earth.

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.
The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used*

All Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.
All O Lord, make haste to help us.

All 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.

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung

Before the ending of the day, creator of the world, we pray
That you, with steadfast love, would keep your watch around us while we
sleep.

From evil dreams defend our sight, from fears and terrors of the night;
Tread underfoot our deadly foe that we no sinful thought may know.

O Father, that we ask be done through Jesus Christ, your only Son;
And Holy Spirit, by whose breath our souls are raised to life from death.

The Word of God

Psalmody for Passiontide – the people respond to odd verses:

O Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and the light around me become night',
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

All 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.

Scripture Reading for Passiontide

I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Zechariah 12.10

The following responsory may be said

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

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (*The Song of Simeon*) is said or sung

Refrain:

All Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: ♦
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations ♦
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

All 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.

All: Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Collect

Silence may be kept.

Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son,
help us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility, love
and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we
are; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **All Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

All: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name; your kingdom come;
your will be done; on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
for the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen..

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,

All so do we look for you, O Christ.

[Come with the dawning of the day

All and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]

Blessing

May God bless us, that in us may be found love and humility,
obedience and thanksgiving, discipline, gentleness and peace.

Amen