

An Order for Compline

The Order of St. Helena Breviary (alt.)

The Officiant begins

May God Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Officiant Our help is in the Name of the Holy One;

People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

The Officiant may then say

Let us confess our sins to God. *Silence may be kept.*

Officiant and People

Almighty God, loving Creator:

We have sinned against you, through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone.

For the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ,

forgive us all our offenses;

and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Officiant

May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

The Officiant then says

O God, make speed to save us.

People **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Officiant and People

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Except in Lent, add Alleluia.

One of the following Psalms is spoken together. The Officiant will direct you.

Psalm 4 *Cum invocarem*

1 Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause; *

you set me free when I am hard-pressed;

have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

2 "You mortals, how long will you dishonor my glory; *

how long will you worship dumb idols and run after false gods?" *Continued*

- 3 Know that our God does wonders for the faithful; *
when I call upon God, God will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, then, and do not sin; *
speak to your heart in silence upon your bed.
- 5 Offer the appointed sacrifices *
and put your trust in the Most High.
- 6 Many are saying, "Oh, that we might see better times!" *
Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O God.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, *
more than when grain and wine and oil increase.
- 8 I lie down in peace; at once I fall asleep; *
for only you, God, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

- 1 In you, O God, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame: *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, Most High, O God of truth.

Psalm 91 *Qui habitat*

- 1 They who dwell in the shelter of the Most High *
abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- 2 They shall say to God, "You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I put my trust."
- 3 God shall deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 God's pinions shall cover you, and under God's wings you shall find refuge;
God's faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.
- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
nor of the arrow that flies by day;

Continued

- 6 Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, *
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.
- 9 Because you have made God your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.
- 11 For God shall give the angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.
- 14 Because you are bound to me in love, therefore will I deliver you; *
I will protect you, because you know my Name.
- 15 You shall call upon me, and I will answer you; *
I am with you in trouble; I will rescue you and bring you to honor.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy you, *
and show you my salvation.

Psalm 134 *Ecce nunc*

- 1 Behold now, bless God, all you servants of our God, *
you that stand by night in the house of our God.
- 2 Lift up your hands in the holy place and bless God; *
God who made heaven and earth bless you out of Zion.

At the end of the Psalm is said,

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

One of the following passages of Scripture, or another passage, is read.

*After the Scripture is read, the People respond, **Thanks be to God.***

The Officiant may lead a time of shared reflection.

Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9,22*

or this

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. *Matthew 11:28-30*

or this

May the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

or this

Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. *1 Peter 5:8-9*

Leader Into your hands, O God, I commend my spirit;

All **For you have redeemed me, O God of truth and love.**

Leader Keep us, O God, as the apple of your eye;

All **Hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

Leader Lord, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer is spoken by 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.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

Leader God, hear our prayer;

All **And let our cry come to you.**

Leader Let us pray.

The Leader reads one of these prayers.

Be our light in the darkness, O God, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Look down, O God, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

Visit this place, O God, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours, through the One who died and rose again for us, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

One of the following prayers may be added

Keep watch, dear God, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

or this

O God, your unfailing providence sustains the world we live in and the life we live: Watch over those, both night and day, who work while others sleep, and grant that we may never forget that our common life depends upon each other's toil; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Silence may be kept, and free intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered.

We continue with the Song of Simeon with this Antiphon, which is said by all:

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

O God, you now have set your servant free *

to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *

whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, *

and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, *

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

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

Leader Let us bless our God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Leader concludes

The almighty and merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

Amen.

or this

May the divine help remain with us always, and with those who are absent from us.

Amen.