**Night Prayer**

Although we are apart, we come together to meet with God.

Let us recognise God’s presence with us now.

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 other 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***

***Verses from Psalm 139***

1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me;   
you know my sitting down and my rising up;  
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 You mark out my journeys and my resting place   
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 For there is not a word on my tongue,   
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

6 Where can I go then from your spirit?   
Or where can I flee from your presence?

7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there;   
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

11 Even darkness is no darkness with you; the night is as clear as the day;   
darkness and light to you are both alike.

12 For you yourself created my inmost parts;   
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

15 Your eyes beheld my form, as yet unfinished;   
already in your book were all my members written,

16 As day by day they were fashioned   
when as yet there was none of them.

17 How deep are your counsels to me, O God!   
How great is the sum of them!

18 If I count them, they are more in number than the sand,   
and at the end, I am still in your presence.

***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.**

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.**

***We listen to a meditation***

***The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said.***

***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.**

***Intercessions and thanksgivings are offered here.***

***The Collect***

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 is said.***

***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.**

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

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