

Prayers

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.

The cross is wrapped in the altar cloth as in a shroud and placed in the sepulchre to symbolise Christ being laid in the tomb. A lighted candle is placed beside it.

Hear the words of assurance: See, touch the wounded hands, put your hand in the bleeding side of Christ. This, our God, lives with our grieving and even our dying. Come, place all you're your grieving alongside the heart of Christ.

We believe

All God is present in the tomb of our waiting, creating the costly miracles of good, of love, of grace, of the restoration of all things. In the centre of our waiting the seeds of our salvation are announced in small signs, in small kindnesses, in humble courage, in lives of fragile hope, in faithfulness.

The ending of the day is a heartbeat of silence in the life of God

All for our pausing, for the laying down of our concerns.

The going down of the sun is a misting of the sharpness

**All for our easing,
for the kindly covering of unanswerable questions**

The coming of the darkness is the touch of God on tired heads

**All for our resting, for the facing of tomorrow when it comes,
tomorrow which is the day of faith and hope. Amen**

To the music of Allegri's Miserere all the lights are extinguished. We wait in darkness and hushed expectation for the miracle of Easter Day.

God is not defeated. Life is more powerful than death. This we believe. From this we will live!

All depart in silence.

NIGHT PRAYER

Good Friday

Music

Christ is Placed in the Sepulchre

God my Father, where are you now?

You who formed me, you who promised me the kingdom?

I see nothing now but a dark wall rising to the stars.

Eli, Eli, Eli lama sabacthani!

All Amen.

The cross is placed on the altar cloth to symbolise the dead Christ taken down from the Cross.

Gospel Reading

Year A - Matthew 27.57-61

Year B - Mark 15.42-47

Year C - Luke 23.50 - 56

The Order of Compline

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

All Amen.

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

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.

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.**

Hymn

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 all the terrors of the night
tread under foot our deadly foe
that we no sinful thoughts 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.

Psalm 36.5-11

5 Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens ♦
and your faithfulness to the clouds.
6 **Your righteousness stands like the strong mountains,
your justice like the great deep; ♦
you, Lord, shall save both man and beast.**
7 How precious is your loving mercy, O God! ♦
All mortal flesh shall take refuge
under the shadow of your wings.
8 **They shall be satisfied with the abundance of your house; ♦
they shall drink from the river of your delights.**

9 For with you is the well of life ♦
and in your light shall we see light.
10 **O continue your loving-kindness to those who know you ♦
and your righteousness to those who are true of heart.**
11 Let not the foot of pride come against me, ♦
nor the hand of the ungodly thrust me away.

Scripture Reading

John 19 is read

Music

Responsory

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

All **Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**
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 **Save us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep may rest in peace.**