



THE ORDER FOR

**COMPLINE**

From the Customary  
of Our Lady of Walsingham

## **Preparation**

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

Brethren, be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh abroad, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

*1 Pet 5:8, 9*

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**who hath 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.*

**I confess to God,  
to blessed Mary,  
and to all the Saints,  
that I have sinned exceedingly  
in thought, word, and deed,**

*And, striking their breasts, they say*

**through my own fault;**

*and they continue*

**I ask holy Mary,  
and all the Saints of God,  
to pray for me.**

*The minister says*

May almighty God have mercy upon us,  
forgive us all our sins;

deliver us from every evil;  
confirm and strengthen us in goodness;  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

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

*During Lent*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:**  
**world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

**The Lord's name be praised.**

*Throughout the year except during Lent*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be:**  
**world without end. Amen. Alleluia.**

*The following or another suitable hymn may be said or sung*

**Before the ending of the day,  
Creator of the world we pray,  
That with thy wonted favour thou  
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.**

**From all ill dreams defend our eyes,  
From nightly fears and fantasies;  
Tread underfoot our ghostly foe,  
That no pollution we may know.**

**O Father, that we ask be done,  
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;  
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,  
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.**

## ***Psalmody***

*One or more of the following psalms may be used*

### ***Psalm 4 · Cum invocarem***

Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness:  
thou hast set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
  have mercy upon me, and hearken unto my prayer.

**O ye sons of men, how long will ye blaspheme mine honour:  
and have such pleasure in vanity, and seek after leasing?**

Know this also,  
  that the Lord hath chosen to himself the man that is godly:  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

**Stand in awe, and sin not:  
commune with your own heart, and in your chamber, and be still.**

Offer the sacrifice of righteousness:  
and put your trust in the Lord.

**There be many that say:  
Who will shew us any good?**

Lord, lift thou up:  
the light of thy countenance upon us.

**Thou hast put gladness in my heart:  
since the time that their corn, and wine, and oil increased.**

I will lay me down in peace, and take my rest:  
for it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Psalm 31:1–6 · *In te, Domine, speravi*

In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust:  
let me never be put to confusion, deliver me in thy righteousness.

**Bow down thine ear to me:  
make haste to deliver me.**

And be thou my strong rock, and house of defence:  
that thou mayest save me.

**For thou art my strong rock, and my castle:  
be thou also my guide, and lead me for thy name's sake.**

Draw me out of the net, that they have laid privily for me:  
for thou art my strength.

**Into thy hands I commend my spirit:  
for thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.**

Psalm 91 · *Qui habitat*

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the Most High:  
shall abide under the shadow of the almighty.

**I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my  
stronghold: my God, in him will I trust.**

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter:  
and from the noisome pestilence.

**He shall defend thee under his wings,  
and thou shalt be safe under his feathers:  
his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.**

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night:  
nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

**For the pestilence that walketh in darkness:  
nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noontday.**

A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand:  
but it shall not come nigh thee.

**Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold:  
and see the reward of the ungodly.**

For thou, Lord, art my hope:  
thou hast set thine house of defence very high.

**There shall no evil happen unto thee:  
neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.**

For he shall give his angels charge over thee:  
to keep thee in all thy ways.

**They shall bear thee in their hands:  
that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.**

Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder:  
the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet.

**Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him:  
I will set him up, because he hath known my name.**

He shall call upon me, and I will hear him:  
yea, I am with him in trouble;

I will deliver him, and bring him to honour.

**With long life will I satisfy him:  
and shew him my salvation.**

*Psalm 134 · Ecce nunc*

Behold now, praise the Lord:  
all ye servants of the Lord;

**Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord:  
even in the courts of the house of our God.**

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary:  
and praise the Lord.

**The Lord that made heaven and earth:  
give thee blessing out of Sion.**

*At the end of the psalmody these words are said or sung:*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.**

### ***Scripture Reading***

*One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read*

Thou, O Lord, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name;  
leave us not, O Lord our God.

*Jer 14:9*

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you  
rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly  
in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and  
my burden is light.

*Mt 11:28-30*

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting  
covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in  
you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; through Jesus Christ, to  
whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*Heb 13:20, 21*

*At the end the following may be said*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The following responsory may be said*

***During Eastertide***

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.**

For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.  
**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Throughout the year except Eastertide*

Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.  
**Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

For thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, thou God of truth.  
**I commend my spirit.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
**Into thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

**The Respond**

Keep me as the apple of an eye.  
**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

***Gospel Cantic***

*Nunc dimittis*

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

*Seasonal Antiphons may be used, found in the Appendix to the music setting.*



Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation:  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Lk 2:29-32*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

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

## ***Prayers***

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers:  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
**let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven:  
**to be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

The almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.  
**Amen.**

*The following suffrages may be omitted.*

Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;  
**that thy people may rejoice in thee?**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;  
**and grant us thy salvation.**

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin;  
**O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

O Lord, hear our prayer;  
**and let our cry come unto thee.**

Let us pray.

*One or more of the following Collects is said*

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let thy holy Angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Look down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **Conclusion**

We will lay us down in peace and take our rest.  
**For it is thou, Lord, only that makest us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, O Lord,  
**for it is toward evening and the day is far spent.**

As the watchmen look for the morning,  
**so do we look for thee, O Christ.**

*If Mass is to be celebrated the following morning*

Come with the dawning of the day  
**and make thyself known in the breaking of bread.**

The Lord be with you.  
**and with thy spirit.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
bless us and preserve us.  
**Amen.**

## ***Anthem to the Blessed Virgin Mary***

*The versicles, responses and prayers may be omitted. Latin texts are in the music setting.*

***From Advent Sunday until the Presentation***

Alma Redemptoris Mater

**Mother of Christ! hear thou thy people's cry,  
Star of the deep, and portal of the sky!  
Mother of him who thee from nothing made,  
Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid;  
Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee,  
Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.**

*From Advent Sunday until Christmas Eve*

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
**and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that, as we  
have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an

Angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

*From Christmas until the Presentation*

After childbirth thou didst remain a pure virgin.  
**Mother of God intercede for us.**

Let us pray.

O God, who, by the fruitful virginity of blessed Mary, hast bestowed upon mankind the reward of eternal salvation: grant, we beseech thee, that we may experience her intercession, through whom we have been made worthy to receive the author of life, our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son.

May the divine assistance remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

*From the day following the Presentation until the Wednesday of Holy Week*

*Ave regina caelorum*

**Hail, Queen of Heaven, beyond compare,  
To whom the Angels homage pay;  
Hail, Root of Jesse, Gate of Light,  
That opened for the world's new Day.**

**Rejoice, O Virgin unsurpassed,  
In whom our ransom was begun,  
For all your loving children pray  
To Christ, our Saviour, and your Son.**

Grant that I may praise thee, sacred Virgin.  
**Give me strength against thine enemies.**

Let us pray.

Grant us protection in our weakness, O merciful God, that we who commemorate the holy Mother of God may triumph over our iniquities with the help of her intercession; through Christ our Lord.

May the divine assistance remain with us always.

**Amen.**

***During Eastertide***

*Regina caeli, laetare*

**Joy to thee, O Queen of heaven, alleluia.  
He whom thou wast meet to bear, alleluia.  
As he promised hath arisen, alleluia.  
Pour for us to him thy prayer, alleluia.**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia,  
**for the Lord has risen indeed, alleluia.**

Let us pray.

O God, who by the resurrection of thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, hast brought joy to the whole world: grant, we beseech thee, that, through his mother the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life; through the same Christ our Lord.

May the divine assistance remain with us always.

**Amen.**

**After Pentecost**

**Salve, Regina**

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

**Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, who by the cooperation of the Holy Spirit, didst prepare the body and soul of the glorious Virgin-Mother Mary to become a worthy dwelling for Thy Son; grant that we who rejoice in her commemoration may, by her loving intercession, be delivered from present evils and from eternal death; through the same Christ our Lord.

May the divine assistance remain with us always.  
**Amen.**

