

# NIGHT PRAYER

## **OPENING:**

*{sign of the cross}*

God, come to my assistance

- *Lord, make haste to help me*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

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

## **HYMN:**

O Christ, you are the light and day which drives away the night,

The ever shining Sun of God and pledge of future light.

As now the evening shadows fall please grant us, Lord, we pray,

A quiet night to rest in you until the break of day.

Remember us, poor mortal men, we humbly ask, O Lord,

And may your presence in our souls be now our great reward.

## **PSALMODY:**

Ant. Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings.

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High

and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord:

"My refuge, my stronghold,

my God in whom I trust!"

It is he who will free you from the snare

of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;

he will conceal you with his pinions

and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night

nor the arrow that flies by day,

nor the plague that prowls in the darkness

nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,

ten thousand fall at your right,

you it will never approach;

his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look

to see how the wicked are repaid,

you who have said: "Lord, my refuge!"

and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,  
No plague approach where you dwell.  
For you has he commanded his angels,  
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands  
lest you strike your foot against a stone.  
One the lion and the viper you will tread  
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;  
protect him for he knows my name.  
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you."  
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;  
I shall let him see my saving power.

*Glory be to the Father...*

Ant. Night holds no terrors for me sleeping under God's wings.

**FIRST READING (Revelation 22:4-5):**

They will look upon his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever and ever.

**SECOND READING (St. Bede the Venerable):**

By meditating upon the incarnation, our devotion is kindled, and by remembering the example of God's Mother, we are encouraged to lead a life of virtue. Such virtues are best achieved in the evening. We are weary after the day's work and worn out by our distractions. The time for rest is near and our minds are ready for contemplation.

**RESPONSORY:**

Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.  
*-Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.*

You have redeemed us, Lord God of truth.  
*- I commend my spirit.*

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

**CANTICLE:**

Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

*{sign of the cross}*

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled:  
my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared  
in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people, Israel.

*Glory be to the Father...*

Ant. Protect us, Lord, as we stay awake; watch over us as we sleep, that awake we may keep watch with Christ, and asleep, rest in his peace.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER:**

God and Father of Christ our Savior,  
In Mary, the Holy Virgin and attentive Mother,  
you have given us the image of your Church.  
Send your Spirit to help our weakness,  
that we may persevere in faith,  
grow in love, and walk together to the heaven of blessed hope.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONCLUSION:**

*{sign of the cross}*

May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.  
-Amen.