

## PREPARATION

## OPENING PRAYER

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## A SENTENCE OF SCRIPTURE

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

*1 Peter 5: 8, 9*

## VERSICLES AND RESPONSES

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Thanks be to God.**

O God, make speed to save us.

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

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.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

## PSALM

*Psalm 134*

- 1 Behold now, praise the Lord, ■  
all ye servant of the Lord.
- 2 Ye that by night stand in the house of the Lord ■  
even in the courts of the house of our God.
- 3 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary ■  
and praise the Lord.
- 4 The Lord that made heaven and earth ■  
give thee blessing out of Zion.

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

## A READING

*Hebrews 12:1-3*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

## RESPONSORY

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

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

## HYMN

Before the ending of the day,  
creator of the world, we pray  
that thou with wonted love wouldst keep  
thy watch around us while we sleep.

O let no evil dreams be near,  
or phantoms of the night appear;  
our ghostly enemy restrain,  
lest aught of sin our bodies stain.

To thee, O saving Three in One,  
let homage due by all be done;  
and grant us, by the cross restored,  
to share the Victor's great reward. Amen.

## POEM

## HAVING CONFESSED

Having confessed he feels  
That he should go down on his knees and pray  
For forgiveness for his pride, for having  
Dared to view his soul from the outside.  
Lie at the heart of the emotion, time  
Has its own work to do. We must not anticipate  
Or awaken for a moment. God cannot catch us  
Unless we stay in the unconscious room  
Of our hearts. We must be nothing,  
Nothing that God may make us something.  
We must not touch the immortal material  
We must not daydream to-morrow's judgement—  
God must be allowed to surprise us.  
We have sinned, sinned like Lucifer  
By this anticipation. Let us lie down again  
Deep in anonymous humility and God  
May find us worthy material for His hand.  
*Patrick Kavanagh (1904-67)*

## VERSICLE AND RESPONSE

*The following responsory may be said:*

Keep me as the apple of an eye.

**Hide me under the shadow of thy wings.**

**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.**

## THE GOSPEL CANTICLE

## NUNC DIMITTIS

*The Song of Simeon Luke 2: 29-32*

- 1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, ■  
according to thy word.
- 2 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, ■  
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
- 3 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles ■

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
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.**

### **PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **CONFESSION**

*A prayerful examination of the past day may be undertaken after which the following or other suitable words of penitence may be used*

**We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
That we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, Through our own grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.  
Almighty God, have mercy upon us, Forgive us all our sins, Deliver us from all evil, Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, And bring us to life everlasting; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The priest, when present, pronounces the absolution.*

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **VERSICLES AND RESPONSES**

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.

### **THE COLLECTS**

Visit, we beseech thee, O Lord, our homes,  
and drive away all the snares of the enemy;  
Let thy holy angels dwell therein  
to preserve us in peace;  
and may thy blessing be upon us evermore;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God,  
as we stand at the foot of the cross of thy Son,  
help us to see and know thy 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. **Amen.**

### **THE ENDING**

### **DISMISSAL**

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

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

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

### **BLESSING**

**May Christ, who heals us through his blood, bless us.  
May he restore in us whatever is lacking in our faith  
and set us at liberty to worship him in freedom  
through our words and deeds. Amen.**