

St Mary's Bromley Advent 2023



Candlelit Compline
An Order for Night Prayer

Now is the time to wake out of sleep,
for now our salvation is nearer
than when we first believed.

We say together the words in ***bold***

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

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
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.*

As we reflect on the day now past we remember when
the Lord comes, that he will bring to light the things now
hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the
heart.

Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

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

**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.
Alleluia.**

The following or another 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

Psalmody

PSALM 143

Show me O Lord, the way that I should walk in.

1 Hear my prayer, O Lord, and in your faithfulness
give ear to my supplications; ♦
answer me in your righteousness.

- 2 Enter not into judgement with your servant, ♦
for in your sight shall no one living be justified.
- 3 For the enemy has pursued me,
crushing my life to the ground, ♦
making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- 4 My spirit faints within me ♦
my heart within me is desolate.
- 5 I remember the time past;
I muse upon all your deeds; ♦
I consider the works of your hands.
- 6 I stretch out my hands to you; ♦
my soul gasps for you like a thirsty land.
- 8 Let me hear of your loving-kindness
in the morning, for in you I put my trust; ♦
**show me the way I should walk in,
for I lift up my soul to you.**
- 9 Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies, ♦
for I flee to you for refuge.

Show me, O Lord, the way that I should walk in.

PSALM 134

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

- 1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, ♦
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.
- 2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary ♦
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth ♦
give you blessing out of Zion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

**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.**

Scripture Reading

*One of the following short lessons,
weeks 1-4 in the order printed,
is read from the book of Isaiah*

Week 1

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.

'Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (*Isaiah 52: 7-10*)

Week 2

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.' (*Isaiah 43:1,6-7*)

Week 3

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. (*Isaiah 61:1-2,11*)

Week.4

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (*Isaiah 9:2,6-7*)

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Followed by:

A SHORT REFLECTION

The following responsory may be said:

I will sing forever of your love O Lord
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

The heavens bear witness to your wonders
I will sing forever of your love O Lord.

The assembly of your saints proclaims your truth
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.

Righteousness and justice are the foundations
of your throne

Love and faithfulness go before you
**I will sing forever of your love O Lord,
my lips shall proclaim your faithfulness.**

Or

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
I commend my spirit.

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

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Cantic

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said or sung

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

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

**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.**

**Come, O Lord, and visit us in peace;
that we may rejoice before you with a perfect heart.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here including any we have brought with us to share ending with the Advent collect.

Jesus, our companion on the journey,
when we are driven to despair,
keep us hopeful and faithful,
help us, through the friends and strangers
we encounter on our path, to know you
as the way, our refuge, and our strength. **Amen.**

Guard us Lord, through the dark nights of doubt and fear,
purify the hearts of those who wait on you,
until your kingdom dawns with the coming of your Son,
Christ, the morning star. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard us in
peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence may be kept

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us
in great humility;

that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty
to judge the living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

As we wait in hope for the joyful coming of the saviour
we pray as he has taught us.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;
for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.
Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.
As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.
[Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.]

Blessing

Restore us again, O God of hosts;
and give us peace;
show us the light of your countenance
and we shall be saved.
Bless and keep us, this night and always. **Amen.**