

## An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

4<sup>th</sup> June

**Bridget of Sweden, Abbess of Vadstena, 1373 [Commemoration]**

**Music as we wait for 6pm: Pulchra es, amica mea** On the Feast Day of St Bridget we turn to Northern Lights for our music: Olo Gjeilo's setting of the canticle from the Song of Songs, "You are beautiful my beloved". The Song of Songs, or Song of Solomon, is a piece of love poetry, which is generally seen as a typology for the Christian soul adoring Christ as the beloved. Ola Gjeilo's "You are beautiful my beloved" sung by the Phoenix Chorale, conducted by Charles Bruffy.

### Preparation

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.**

### The Examen

*A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.*

We look back over the past day or the past week and we consider

Those times when our behaviour may have been a blessing to someone and lightened their load and gladdened their heart...

And we thank God for his grace in using us to bless the world.

We look back and we ponder those times we know that our behaviour has not gladdened people's hearts or lightened their load, and we ask ourselves: was that necessary or proper and what motivated us?

And we ask God to show us if we were wrong, to reveal our dark motivations, to forgive us and to help us to do better in the week ahead, that we may be Christ to the world.

We confess our sins to our loving Father, who is already more eager to forgive than we are to seek that forgiveness.

**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.**

*We listen to the Office Hymn Before the ending of the day, sung by the Nuns*

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**

### **Ps 134**

***Refrain:* 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.

***Refrain:* Bless the Lord, O my soul.**

Guard all your household, Lord,  
Through the dark night of faith,  
And purify the hearts of those who wait on you,  
Until your Kingdom dawns with the rising of your Son,  
Christ, the morning star.

**Amen.**

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

**All 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 sentences of Scripture is read aloud, or another suitable passage.*

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night: they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. *Revelation 22.4, 5*

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.**

*We listen to Orlando Gibbon's setting of this biblical canticle from his "Short Service", sung by the Oxford Camerata and end with the final antiphon.*

### **Gospel Canticle**

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)

Refrain:

**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.

**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.**

Refrain:

**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.**

## **Prayers**

Lord in your mercy  
**Hear our Prayer**

As we commemorate St Bridget of Sweden, we pray for the people of Sweden, and the churches of that land, that they may, like their patron saint have a vision of Christ which inspires them to serve their communities.

We pray for ourselves and our families for our safety from the pandemic and particularly from the Delta variant currently rampaging these islands, and God's blessings on our lives together or apart.

We pray for our own churches and faith communities, for Peter our Bishop and all who serve through leadership be they clergy, churchwardens, and for those who serve in humble and unseen ways such as cleaners and flower arrangers. And especially we pray for the children and young families in our fellowships, for God's blessing of faithfulness in trying times.

We pray newly elected Councillors here in Douglas or newly elected village commissioners around the island and for our MHKs as they prepare for the Manx General Election in September.

We pray for the those suffering in body, mind and soul...

We pray for the bereaved...

## **The Collect**

### **... of the Day**

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,

and of your great mercy keep us in the same;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**... for Friday evenings**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
who at this evening hour lay in the tomb  
and so hallowed the grave  
to be a bed of hope for all who put their trust in you:  
give us such sorrow for our sins,  
which were the cause of your passion,  
that when our bodies lie in the dust,  
our souls may live with you for ever.

**Amen.**

**... for our Homes**

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.**

**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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and 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.**

The Lord bless us and watch over us;  
the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;  
the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace.

**Amen.**

We close with Eriks Esenvalds' O Salutaris Hostia. A nother hymn of adotratiion to the Lord Jesus: O saving Victim, opening wide, The gate of heaven to us below!

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