Liturgy of the Hours

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Night Prayer

December 31, 2026

{ Solemnity – Mary, Mother of God }



Make sign of cross

God, come to my assistance.

— Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Penitential Rite

Brief moment of silence

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Presiding minister

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

— Amen.

Hymn

To you before the close of light,
Creator of all things, we pray:
Be our protector, keep us safe
in your unfailing clemency.

Incline our hearts to dream of you,
to sense your presence as we sleep;

as light returns, so let us sing
your praise and glory evermore.

Grant us the grace of health and strength,
renew our warmth and joy of life;
and let your radiant light dispel
the dreaded darkness of the night.

Almighty Father, grant our prayer
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who reigns with you from age to age,
one with the Spirit, ever blest. Amen.

Metrical hymn, melody: A la venue de Noël, 8 8 8 8; Fleurs des noëls, Lyons, 1535

Plainsong, mode II, melody 46; Liber Hymnarius, Solesmes, 1983, Text: Te lucis ante terminum, 5-6th c.

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Psalmody

Antiphon 1

Have mercy, Lord, and hear my prayer.

Psalm 4

Thanksgiving

The resurrection of Christ was God's supreme and wholly marvelous work (Saint Augustine).

When I cáll, ánswer me, O Gód of jústice; *
from ánguish you reléased me; have mércy and héar me!

O mén, how lóng will your héarts be clósed, *
will you lóve what is fútile and séek what is fálse?

It is the Lórd who grants fávors to thóse whom he lóves; *
the Lórd héars me whenéver I cáll him.

Fear him; do not sín: pónder on your béd and be stíll. *
Make jústice your sácrifice and trúst in the Lórd.

"What can bríng us háppiness?" mány sáy. *
Let the líght of your fáce shíne on us, O Lórd.

You have pút into my héart a gréater jóy *
than théy have from abúndance of córn and new wíne.

I will líe down in péace and sléep comes at ónce *
for yóu alone, Lórd, make me dwéll in sáfety.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

Have mercy, Lord, and hear my prayer.

Antiphon 2

In the silent hours of night, bless the Lord.

Psalm 134

Evening prayer in the temple

Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great (Revelation 19:5).

O cóme, bléss the Lórd, *
all yóu who sérve the Lórd,
who stánd in the hóuse of the Lórd, *
in the cóurts of the hóuse of our Gód.

Lift up your hánds to the hóly pláce *
and bléss the Lórd through the níght.

May the Lórd bléss you from Zíon, *
he who máde both héaven and éarth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

In the silent hours of night, bless the Lord.

Reading

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today. Drill them into your children. Speak of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest.

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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

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

Gospel Canticle

Antiphon

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.

Luke 2:29-32

Christ is the light of the nations and the glory of Israel

Make sign of 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 to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be for ever. Amen.

Antiphon

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

Let us pray.

Lord,
we beg you to visit this house
and banish from it
all the deadly power of the enemy.
May your holy angels dwell here
to keep us in peace,
and may your blessing be upon us always.
We ask this though Christ our Lord.

— Amen.

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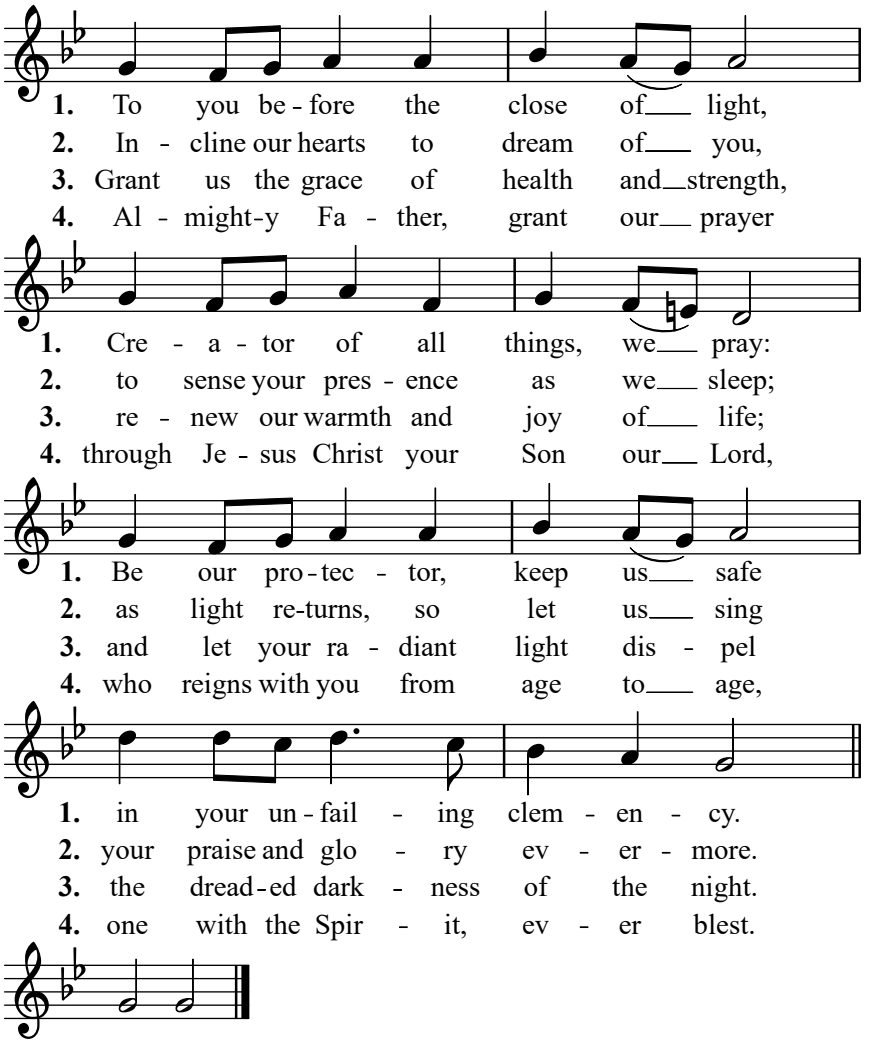
May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.

— Amen.

Antiphon of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Loving mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again.
To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator,
yet remained a virgin after as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.

To You before the Close of Light



Metrical hymn, melody: A la venue de Noël, 8 8 8 8; Fleurs des noëls, Lyons 1535. Text: Te lucis ante terminum,, 5-6th c. Hymn copyrights and acknowledgments are listed on page three.

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