Liturgy of the Hours

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Night Prayer

December 28, 2026

{ Feast – Holy Innocents, Martyrs }

Liturgy of the Hours
EBREVIARY

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

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

Psalm 91

Safe in God's sheltering care

I have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions (Luke 10:19).

He who dwélls in the shélter of the Most Hígh *
and abídes in the sháde of the Almíghty
sáys to the Lórd: "My réfuge, *
my strónghold, my Gód in whom I trúst!"

It is hé who will frée you from the snáre *
of the fówler who séeks to destróy you;
hé will concéal you with his pínions *
and únder his wíngs you will find réfuge.

You will not féar the térror of the níght *
nor the árrow that flíes by dáy,
nor the plágue that prówls in the dárkness *
nor the scóurge that lays wáste at nóon.

A thóusand may fáll at your síde, *
tén thousand fáll at your ríght,
yóu, it will néver appróach; *
his fáithfulness is búckler and shíeld.

Your éyes have ónly to lóok *
to sée how the wícked are repáid,
yóu who have said: "Lórd, my réfuge!" *
and have máde the Most Hígh your dwélling.

Upon yóu no évil shall fáll, *
no plágue appróach where you dwéll.
For yóu has he commánded his ángels, *
to kéep you in áll your wáys.

They shall béar you upón their hánds *
lest you stríke your fóot against a stóne.
On the líon and the víper you will tréad *
and trámple the young líon and the drágon.

Since he clíngs to me in lóve, I will frée him; *
protéct him for he knóws my náme.
When he cálls I shall ánswer: "I am wíth you." *
I will sáve him in distréss and give him glóry.

With léngth of lífe I will contént him; *
I shall lét him see my sáving pówer.

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

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

Reading

Revelation 22:4-5

They shall see the Lord face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever.

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

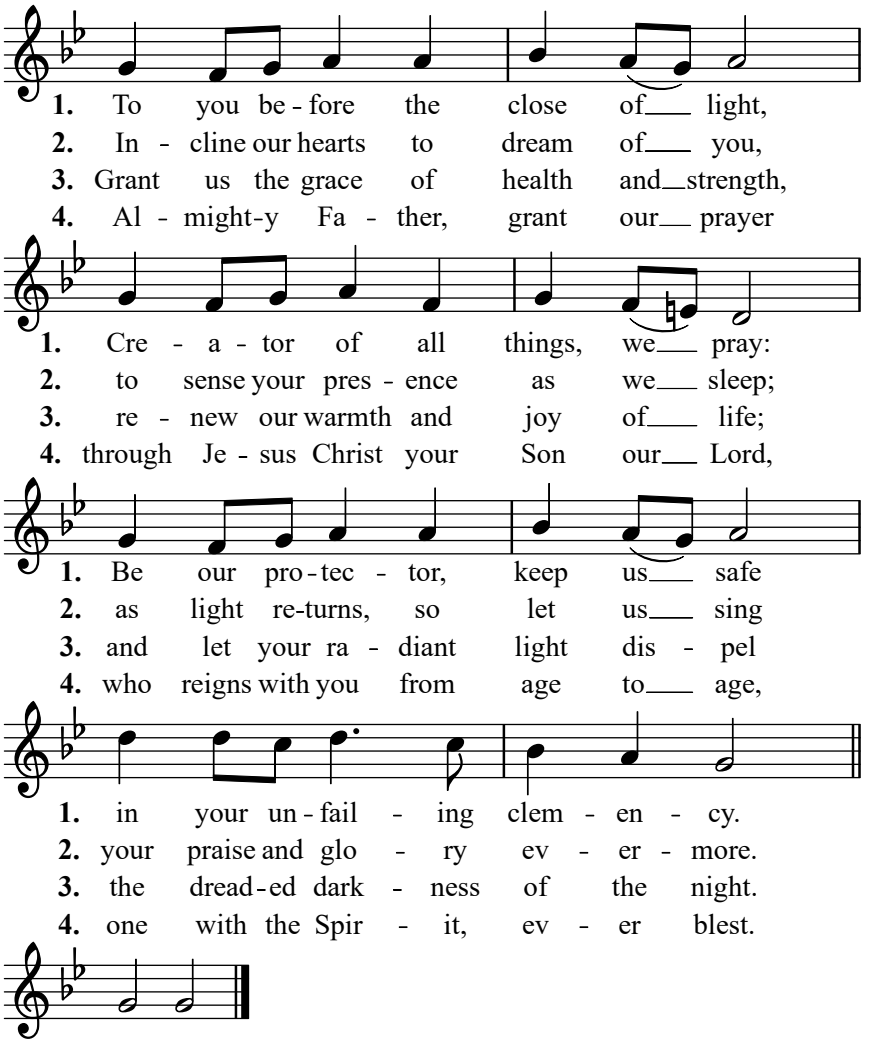
May the all-powerful Lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death.

— 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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