



AN ORDER FOR COMPLINE
The Book of Common Prayer (1962)

Territorial Acknowledgment

Although we have come together in digital space, we each stand in place on solid ground that is the ancestral territory of peoples who were here long before the Europeans crossed the ocean. *We gratefully acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*



The Minister shall say:

THE Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**
Minister. O God, make speed to save us;
Answer. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

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

Minister. Praise ye the Lord;
Answer. **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Then shall be said or sung one or more of the following Psalms:

Psalm 29

Having heard Isaiah's transformative vision, we respond by singing Psalm 29, which praises the Lord, that is YHWH, with phrases that appear to have been adapted by the Israelites from the worship of the Canaanite weather deity Baal. The psalm moves from the image of a storm god to one who blesses the people with peace. Thus the psalm parallels the movement of Isaiah 6.

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due the divine name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon, and makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as sovereign for evermore.

The Lord shall give strength to this people; the Lord shall give this people the blessing of peace

Gospel John 3:1-17

On Trinity Sunday, Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus presents us with John's language for the triune God: God; the Son, who is the only begotten one; and the Spirit, of whom the believers are born. This is expansive imagery of God: the Spirit of God as a womb amplifies the language of God as the Father of the Son.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Reflection: *How do you explain the Holy Trinity?*

Then may be said the following Respond:

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

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

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

Answer. **I commend my spirit.**

Minister. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

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

Te lucis ante terminum.

BEFORE the ending of the day,
Creator of the world, we pray
That with thy wonted favour thou
Wouldst be our guard and keeper now.
From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
From nightly fears and fantasies;
Tread under foot our ghostly foe,
That no pollution we may know.
O Father, that we ask be done,
Through Jesus Christ, thine only Son;
Who, with the Holy Ghost and thee,
Doth live and reign eternally. Amen.

Minister. Keep us as the apple of an eye;

Answer. **Hide us under the shadow of thy wings.**

Antem. **Preserve us, O Lord, waking, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.**

NUNC DIMITTIS.

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, / **according to thy word.**
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, / **which thou hast prepared before the**
face of all people;

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.

Anthem. Preserve us, O Lord, waking, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed by the Minister and people, standing.

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and
buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead; He
ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy
Ghost; The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins;
The Resurrection of the body, And the Life everlasting. Amen.

And after that these Prayers following, all devoutly kneeling:

Minister. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 them that trespass against us; And
lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Minister. Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers;

Answer. **To be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Minister. Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost;

Answer. **Let us praise him and magnify him for ever.**

Minister. Blessed art thou, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven;

Answer. **To be praised and glorified above all for ever.**

Minister. The Almighty and most merciful Lord guard us and give us his blessing.

Answer. **Amen.**

Then shall the Minister and people say together the Confession and the Prayer for Forgiveness following.

WE confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, 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 and deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

If a Priest be present, they shall stand and pronounce the following 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.

Then shall be said:

Minister. Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;

Answer. **That thy people may rejoice in thee?**

Minister. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;

Answer. **And grant us thy salvation.**

Minister. Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin;

Answer. **O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.**

Minister. O Lord, hear our prayer;

Answer. **And let our cry come unto thee.**

Then shall follow the Collect for Protection, with which may be said the Collect of the day.

The Collect for Protection.

VISIT, we beseech thee, O Lord, this place, and drive from it all the snares of the enemy; let thy holy angels dwell herein to preserve us in peace; and may thy blessing be upon us evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The following prayers may be added.

O LORD Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who at this evening hour didst rest in the sepulchre, and didst thereby sanctify the grave to be a bed of hope to thy people: Make us so to abound in sorrow for our sins, which were the cause of thy passion, that when our bodies lie in the dust, our souls may live with thee; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

LOOK down, O Lord, from thy heavenly throne, illuminate the darkness of this night with thy celestial brightness, and from the sons of light banish the deeds of darkness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BE present, O merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world, may repose upon thy eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Minister. We will lay us down in peace and take our rest;

Answer. **For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.**

Minister. The Lord be with you;

Answer. **And with thy spirit.**

Minister. Let us bless the Lord;

Answer. **Thanks be to God.**

THE Almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, bless and preserve us. *Amen.*