

## Friday Night Prayer

### INTRODUCTION

O God, come to our aid.

*O Lord, make haste to help us.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

### Examination of Conscience

#### Hymn

Lead, kindly light, amid the encircling  
gloom,  
Lead thou me on;  
The night is dark, and I am far from home;  
Lead thou me on;  
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see  
The distant scene: one step enough for me.

I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou  
Shouldst lead me on;  
I loved to choose, and see my path; but  
now  
Lead thou me on.  
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,  
Pride ruled my will: remember not past  
years.

So long thy power hath blest me, sure it  
still  
Will lead me on,  
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent,  
till  
The night is gone,  
And with the morn those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since, and lost a  
while.

### Psalm 87 (88)

#### The prayer of one gravely ill

“This is your hour; this is the reign of  
darkness” (Lk 22:53).

*Lord my God, I call for help by day, I cry at  
night before you.*

Lord my God, I call for help by day;  
I cry at night before you.  
Let my prayer come into your presence.  
O turn your ear to my cry.

For my soul is filled with evils;  
my life is on the brink of the grave.  
I am reckoned as one in the tomb:  
I have reached the end of my strength,

like one alone among the dead;  
like the slain lying in their graves;  
like those you remember no more,  
cut off, as they are, from your hand.

You have laid me in the depths of the  
tomb,  
in places that are dark, in the depths.  
Your anger weighs down upon me:  
I am drowned beneath your waves.

You have taken away my friends  
and made me hateful in their sight.  
Imprisoned, I cannot escape;  
my eyes are sunken with grief.

I call to you, Lord, all the day long;  
to you I stretch out my hands.  
Will you work your wonders for the  
dead?

Will the shades stand and praise you?  
Will your love be told in the grave  
or your faithfulness among the dead?  
Will your wonders be known in the  
dark  
or your justice in the land of oblivion?

As for me, Lord, I call to you for help:  
in the morning my prayer comes  
before you.

Lord, why do you reject me?  
Why do you hide your face?

Wretched, close to death from my  
youth,  
I have borne your trials; I am numb.  
Your fury has swept down upon me;

your terrors have utterly destroyed me.  
They surround me all the day like a  
flood,  
they assail me all together.  
Friend and neighbour you have taken  
away:  
my one companion is darkness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

*Lord my God, I call for help by day, I cry at  
night before you.*

### Short Reading

Lord, you are in our midst, we are called by  
your name. Do not desert us, O Lord our  
God!

### Short 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.  
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.*  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
– *Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit.*  
*p*

### Canticle

#### Nunc Dimittis

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

*Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us  
while we sleep; that we may keep watch with  
Christ and rest with him in peace.*

At last, all-powerful Master,  
you give leave to your servant

to go in peace, according to your  
promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation  
which you have prepared for all  
nations,  
the light to enlighten the Gentiles  
and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end.  
Amen.

*Save us, Lord, while we are awake; protect us  
while we sleep; that we may keep watch with  
Christ and rest with him in peace.*

### Let us pray.

Give us grace, almighty God,  
so to unite ourselves in faith with your  
only Son,  
who underwent death and lay buried in  
the tomb,  
that we may rise again in newness of life  
with him,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

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

### Amen.

Salve Regina mater miseri cordiae, vita,  
dulcedo et spes nostra salve  
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii Hevae  
Ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes in hac  
lacrimarum valle  
Eia ergo advocata nostra, illos tuos miseri  
cordes oculos ad nos converte  
Et Jesum benedictum fructum ventris tui  
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende  
O clemens, o pia, o dulcis virgo Maria.