The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.
All
Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord
All
who made heaven and earth.

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

All
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.
All
O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.
Alleluia.

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

Psalmody

Psalm 31 vv 1-5, [19-end]

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; ♦

deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; ♦

make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦

guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, ♦

for you are my strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦

for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord, which you have laid up for those who fear you; ♦

which you have prepared in the sight of all
for those who put their trust in you.

You hide them in the shelter of your presence from those who slander them; ♦

you keep them safe in your refuge from the strife of tongues.

Blessed be the Lord! ♦

For he has shown me his steadfast love when I was as a city besieged.

I had said in my alarm, 'I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.' ♦

Nevertheless, you heard the voice of my prayer when I cried out to you.

Love the Lord, all you his servants; ♦

for the Lord protects the faithful, but repays to the full the proud.

Be strong and let your heart take courage, ♦

all you who wait in hope for the Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ,
when scorn and shame besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands
and make your face shine on us again,
for you are our Lord and God.

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

The one who endures to the end will be saved. And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations.
Matthew 24.13,14a

The following responsory may be said
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
All
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All
I commend my spirit.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
All
Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Keep me as the apple of your eye.
All
Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle
The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said or sung.
All
O King most blessed,
on the day of judgement
number us among your chosen.

Now, Lord, 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.
Luke 2.29-32

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.

All
O King most blessed,
on the day of judgement
number us among your chosen.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

All

Amen.

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.

All

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

The Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

All

for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

All

for the night is at hand and the day is now past.

As the night watch looks for the morning,

All

so do we look for you, O Christ.

May the light of Christ, the King of all,
shine ever brighter in our hearts,
that with all the saints in light
we may shine forth as lights in the world.