Compline

 December 28-January 1

Blessed are you, holy and living God.

*You come to your people and set us free*. *Amen.*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of the bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

O God, make speed to save us.

*O Lord, make haste to help us*.

Let us say together the psalm.

**Psalm 121**

I lift up my eyes to the hills;

 from where is my help to come?

My help comes from the Lord,

 the maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot be moved

 and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Behold, he who watches over Israel

 shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord himself watches over you;

 the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you by day,

 nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;

 it is he who shall keep you safe.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in.

 from this time forth for evermore.

**Psalm 131**

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 castle to keep me safe,

 for you are my crag and my stronghold;

 for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me.

 for you are my tower of strength,

Into your hands I commend my spirit,

 for you have redeemed me,

 O Lord, O God of truth.

**Psalm 139**

Lord, you have searched me out and known me;

 you know my sitting down and my rising up;

 you discern my thoughts from afar.

You trace my journeys and my resting places

 and are acquainted with all my ways.

Indeed, there is not a word on my lips,

 but you, O Lord, know it altogether.

You press behind me and before

 and lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

Where can I go then from your Spirit?

 Where can I flee from your presence?

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

 if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.

If I take the wings of the morning

 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

Even there your hand will lead me

 and your right hand hold me fast.

If I say, “Surely the darkness will cover me,

 and the light around me turn to night,”

Darkness is not dark to you;

 the night is as bright as the day;

 darkness and light to you are both alike.

**Readings**

**Monday**

Lord, you are in the midst of us, and we are called by your Name: Do not forsake us, O Lord our God. *Jeremiah 14:9, 22*

**Tuesday**

Love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you. Do good and lend, expecting nothing in return. Be merciful as your God is merciful. Judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; for the measure you give will be the measure you receive. *Luke 6:27-38*

**Wednesday**

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:28*

**Thursday**

God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? *Micah 6:8*

**Friday**

It is the God who said, Let light shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. *2 Corinthians 4:6-10*

**The Prayers**

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

*And grant us your salvation.*

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

*For only in you can we live in safety.*

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

*And guide us in the way of justice and truth.*

Let your way be known upon the earth;

*Your saving health among all nations.*

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

*Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.*

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

*And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.*

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

Lord, hear our prayer.

*And let our cry come to you.*

Let us pray.

*The officiant says one of the following collects*.

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The following prayers may be added*.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love’s sake. *Amen.*

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people in this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

Lord, you now have set your servant free

 to go in peace as you have promised.

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,

 whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

A Light to enlighten the nations,

 and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to God, sustaining, redeeming, sanctifying,

As in the beginning, so now, and for ever.

Amen.

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

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart. Amen

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*