Night Prayer
From the Liturgy of the Hours
Outside of Paschaltide

“In the Holy Spirit Christ carries out through the Church ‘the task of redeeming humanity and giving perfect glory to God,’ not only when the Eucharist is celebrated and the sacraments administered but also in other ways and especially when the Liturgy of the Hours is celebrated. There Christ himself is present — in the gathered community, in the proclamation of God’s word, ‘in the prayer and song of the Church.’” (General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours)

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English translation of the Nunc Dimittis and the Gloria Patri by the International Consultation on English Texts (ICET).
Opening Invocation

℣. O God, come to my assistance.
℟. O 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 forever.
℟. Amen. (Alleluia.)

Penitential Rite

A brief period of silence for an examination of conscience, followed by a penitential rite.

Hymn

Te lucis ante terminum,

erum Creator, poscimus

ut pro tua clementia

sis praesul et custodia.

Procul recedant somnia

et noctium phantasmata;

hostemque nostrum comprime,

ne polluantur corpora.

Praesta, Pater piissime,

Patrique compar Unice,

cum Spiritu Paraclito

regnans per omne saeculum.

To Thee, before the close of day
Creator of the world, we pray
that with Thy wonted favor, 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,
shall live and reign eternally.

Psalmody

Ant. Night holds no terrors for me * sleeping under God’s wings.

Psalm 90 (91)

Safe in God’s sheltering care

I have given you the power to tread upon serpents and scorpions. (Luke 1: 19)

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High * and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: “My refuge, * my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!”

It is he who will free you from the snare * of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions * and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night * nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness * nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.
A thousand may fall at your side, * ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach; * his faithfulness is buckler and shield.
Yours eyes have only to look * to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: “Lord, my refuge!”
* and have made the Most High your dwelling.
Upon you no evil shall fall, * no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels, 
* to keep you in all your ways.
They shall bear you upon their hands *
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
* and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him; * protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: “I am with you.” * I will save him in distress and give him glory.
With length of life I will content him; *
I shall let him see my saving power.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, *
and will be forever. Amen.

Ant. Night holds no terrors for me * sleeping under God’s wings.

Reading
A short reading is read.

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.
_RST. I commend my spirit.

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

Canticle of Simeon

Ant. 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.

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

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 forever. Amen.

Ant. 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.

The concluding prayer is said.

℟. Amen.

Blessing

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

℟. Amen.

Antiphon in Honor of the Blessed Virgin

Alma Redemptoris Mater, quae pervia caeli porta manes, et stella maris, succurre cadenti,

Surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti, natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem

Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabriellis ab ore sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.

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.

Ave, Regina caelorum,
Ave, Domina Angelorum:
Salve, radix, salve, porta,
Ex qua mundo lux est orta:
Gaude, Virgo gloriosa,
Super omnes speciosa,
Vale, o valde decora,
Et pro nobis Christum exora.

Hail, O Queen of Heav'n enthron'd, Hail, by angels Mistress own'd Root of Jesse, Gate of morn, Whence the world's true light was born.

Glorious Virgin, joy to thee, Lovliest whom in Heaven they see, Fairest thou where all are fair! Plead with Christ our sins to spare.