

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) – Nov 25 2020

The ancient office of Compline derives its name from a Latin word meaning ‘completion’ (completorium). It is above all a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

Opening

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

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

Leader: We hear thy voice, O Lord Jesus, saying: “Come unto me, all you who labour and are heavy-laden, and I will refresh you.” We come into your presence, weary and burdened with our sins and with the cares and distractions of the world. Let us rest awhile in your sacred presence; let our hearts find rest here. Let nothing separate us from you, here in this world or in the world to come. Amen.

A period of reflection on the past day follows.

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used:

All **O Merciful Jesus, ever present and with a heart ready to receive all who come to you weary and heavy laden; give us a spirit of sincere repentance, a strong hope in your mercy, and a lasting desire to grow in virtue and to walk in your way. Amen.**

Leader 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.**

O Gracious Light (*Phos Hilaron*)

**O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,**

and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
You are worthy at all times to be sung by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Word of God

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!
- 2 O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
- 3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
- 4 But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.
- 5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.
- 6 My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
- 8 And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

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

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

The following responsories are said:

Leader Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
All **Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Leader For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.
All **I commend my spirit.**

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

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

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc dimittis (The Song of Simeon) is said:

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

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.**

**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.**

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

Prayers

A time of intercession and thanksgiving.

The Collect

Leader	Lord, hear our prayer;
People	And let our cry come to you.
Leader	Let us pray.

The Leader then 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 Saviour 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.**

Look down, O Lord, from your heavenly throne, and illumine this night with your celestial brightness; that by night as by day your people may glorify your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus

Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

Silence may be kept.

All **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.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

Closing

Leader In peace we will lie down and sleep;
All **for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Leader Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
All **for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

Leader As the night watch looks for the morning,
All **so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Leader The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself;
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service;
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

From the Church of England Order for Night Prayer, adapted for online use by St Paul's Bloor St, 2020.

Additional prayers taken from St Augustine's Prayer Book © 2014 Forward Movement