

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) – May 5 2021

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 your 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.**

Compline Hymn

**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

Psalm 134

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth
give you blessing out of Zion.

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

Revelation 7:9-17

⁹ After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰ And they cried out in a loud voice:

‘Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.’

¹¹ All the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, ¹² saying:

‘Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honour
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!’

¹³ Then one of the elders asked me, ‘These in white robes – who are they, and where did they come from?’

¹⁴ I answered, ‘Sir, you know.’

And he said, ‘These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore,

‘they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

¹⁶ “Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.
The sun will not beat down on them,”
nor any scorching heat.

¹⁷ For the Lamb at the centre of the throne
will be their shepherd;
“he will lead them to springs of living water.”
“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.””

The Word of the Lord.

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 we 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

Prayers 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.**

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
All

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

Leader
All

Abide with us, Lord Christ,
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 May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to disturb and heal us,
bless you with power to go forth
and proclaim the gospel.

All **Amen.**

From the Church of England Order for Night Prayer, adapted for online use by St Paul's Bloor St, 2021.