

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) – Jan 12, 2022

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.**

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 4

1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
4 Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.
6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
7 You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when corn and wine and oil increase.
8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

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

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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, beginning and ending with the Antiphon (refrain):

All **Preserve 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.**

**Preserve us, O Lord, while waking,
and guard us while sleeping,
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we 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.

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.**

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 Christ,
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 May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,
 may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,
 may the gifts of the Spirit equip you
 to serve and worship God;
 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, 2022.