

# An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) – Jan 19, 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 91***

1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,  
2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold,  
my God, in whom I put my trust.'  
3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.  
4 He shall cover you with his wings  
and you shall be safe under his feathers;  
his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.  
5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night,  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;  
6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness,  
nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.  
7 Though a thousand fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand,  
yet it shall not come near you.  
8 Your eyes have only to behold  
to see the reward of the wicked.  
9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge  
and the Most High your stronghold,  
10 There shall no evil happen to you,  
neither shall any plague come near your tent.  
11 For he shall give his angels charge over you,  
to keep you in all your ways.  
12 They shall bear you in their hands,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.  
13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder;

the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.

14 Because they have set their love upon me,  
therefore will I deliver them;

I will lift them up, because they know my name.

15 They will call upon me and I will answer them;  
I am with them in trouble,

I will deliver them and bring them to honour.

16 With long life will I satisfy them  
and show them my salvation.

*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 21:1-7**

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

*Leader*        This is the Word of the Lord.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

*Followed by a reading from Frederick Buechner's book "Peculiar Treasures".*

*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, taken from The Book of A  
Thousand Prayers, p 163.*

## **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.*