

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline) – June 15, 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 forever. Amen.**

Compline Hymn

**O Christ,
Serene and tranquil light,
Shine into the depth of my being,
Come, and draw me to yourself.**

**Free me from the chatter of my mind,
And draw me through and beyond
All words and symbols,
Into the silence,
That I may discover You,
The unspoken Word,
The pure Light,
Piercing and transforming the darkness
That veils the ground of my being.**

Based on words by F.C. Happold

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.**

Reading

A reading from Julian of Norwich, taken from The Joy of the Saints.

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 for the world, the church, our loved ones, and ourselves.

The Collect

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

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 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 Our Lord Jesus Christ be near you to defend you,
Within you to refresh you,

Around you to preserve you,
Behind you to justify you,
Above you to bless you,
Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for
evermore.

All

Amen.

From the Church of England Order for Night Prayer, adapted for online use by St Paul's Bloor St, 2022.