

Compline

(An Order for Night Prayer)

Note

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. It is most effective when the ending is indeed an ending, without additions, conversation or noise. If there is an address, or business to be done, it should come first. If the service is in church, those present depart in silence; if at home, they go quietly to bed.

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

Cantor O God, make speed to save us.

All **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Cantor Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

All **as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Alleluia.

The following or another suitable hymn may be sung

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

Psalmody. One or more of the following psalms may be used.

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; *
when I was hard-pressed you set me free;
be gracious to me now and hear my prayer.
- 2 Sons of men, how long will you turn my glory to my shame; *
how long will you love what is worthless and seek after lies?
- 3 Know that the Lord has shown me his wonderful kindness; *
when I call to the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Tremble, and do no sin; *
commune with your own heart upon your bed,
and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices that are right *
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, ‘Who will show us any good? *

The light of your countenance, O Lord, has gone from us.’

- 7 Yet you have given my heart more gladness, *
than they have when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, *
for you alone Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalm 91

- 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High *
and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 He will say to the Lord, ‘You are my refuge and my stronghold, *
my God in whom I trust.’
- 3 For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter *
and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings
and you will be safe under his feathers; *
his faithfulness will be your shield and defence.

- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, *
or of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that walks about in darkness, *
or the plague that destroys at noonday.
- 7 A thousand may fall at beside you,
and ten thousand at your right hand, *
but you it shall not touch.
- 8 Your eyes have only to look *
to see the reward of the ungodly.
- 9 The Lord himself is your refuge *
You have made the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 Therefore no harm shall befall you, *
nor shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he will command his angels, *
to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They will bear you up 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 will
trample underfoot.

- 14 'He has set his love upon me,
and therefore I will deliver him; *
I will lift him out of danger, because he has known
my name.
- 15 'When he calls upon me I will answer him; *
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and bring him to honour.
- 16 'With long life will I satisfy him *
and fill him with my salvation.'

Psalm 134

- 1 O come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the
Lord, *
you that by night stand in the house of our God.
- 2 Lift up your hands toward the holy place *
- - and bless the Lord.
- 3 May the Lord bless you from Zion *
The Lord who made heaven and earth.

At the end of the psalmody, the following is said or sung

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Scripture Reading

One of the following short lessons or another suitable passage is read

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are
called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.
Jeremiah 14.9

(or)

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary
the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion,
seeking for someone to devour.
Resist him, strong in the faith. *1 Peter 5.8, 9*

(or)

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God,
whose name will be on their foreheads. There will
be no more night: they will not need the light of a
lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their
light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22.4, 5

The following responsory may be said

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

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

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

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.**

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: *
your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation *
which you have prepared in the sight of every
people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29-32

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.

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.**

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Silence may be kept.

Visit this place and our homes, O Lord, we pray,
and drive far from it the snares of the enemy;
may your holy angels dwell with us and guard
us in peace,
and may your blessing be always upon us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

Cantor Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All **Hide me under the shadow of your wings.**

Cantor I will lie down in peace and take my rest.

All **For you alone Lord make me dwell in safety.**

Cantor Let us bless the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Cantor May the Almighty and merciful Lord:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep us..

All **Amen.**