

An Order for Night Prayer (Compline)

Thy Kingdom Come

Ascension to Pentecost



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.

At Compline, it is customary for the words to be offered at a volume that is such that the only voices heard are those of your neighbours.

Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

All Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who made heaven and earth.

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

The following or other suitable words of penitence may be used.

All Most merciful God,
we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed
and in what we have failed to do.
Forgive us our sins,
heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

The following or other suitable hymn may be sung (see pages 6 - 9).

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. Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

Psalm 86

- 1 Bow down thine ear, O Lord, and hear me *
 for I am poor, and in misery.
- 2 Preserve thou my soul, for I am holy *
 my God, save thy servant that putteth his trust in thee.
- 3 Be merciful unto me, O Lord *
 for I will call daily upon thee.
- 4 Comfort the soul of thy servant *
 for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
- 5 For thou, Lord, art good and gracious *
 and of great mercy unto all them that call upon thee.
- 6 Give ear, Lord, unto my prayer *
 and ponder the voice of my humble desires.
- 7 In the time of my trouble I will call upon thee *
 for thou hearest me.

- 8 Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord *
there is not one that can do as thou doest.
- 9 All nations whom thou hadst made shall come and worship thee, O
Lord *
and shall glorify thy Name.
- 10 For thou art great, and doest wondrous things *
thou art God alone.
- 11 Teach me thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in thy truth *
O knit my heart unto thee, that I may fear thy Name.
- 12 I will thank thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart *
and will praise thy Name for evermore.
- 13 For great is thy mercy toward me *
and thou hast delivered my soul from the nethermost hell.
- 14 O God, the proud are risen against me *
and the congregations of naughty men have sought after my soul, and
have not set thee before their eyes.
- 15 But thou, O Lord God, art full of compassion and mercy *
long-suffering, plenteous in goodness and truth.
- 16 O turn thee then unto me, and have mercy upon me *
give thy strength unto thy servant, and help the son of thine handmaid.
- 17 Shew some token upon me for good, that they who hate me may see it
and be ashamed *
because thou, Lord, hast holpen me and comforted me.
- All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Joel 2.28

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall
prophesy. The old shall dream dreams and the young shall see visions.

The following responsory may be said

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

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

For you have redeemed me, Lord God of truth.

All I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

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

Keep me as the apple of your eye.

All Hide me under the shadow of your wings.

Gospel Canticle

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) is said or sung.

All Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace. Alleluia.

1 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace *
according to thy word.

2 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation *
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

3 To be a light to lighten the Gentiles *
and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Luke 2.29-32

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

All Save us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep may rest in peace. Alleluia.

Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

The Collect

Silence may be kept.

Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evil be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified in his risen life.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer may be said.

All Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in 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.

The Conclusion

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

**All Abide with us, Lord Jesus,
for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

**All As the night watch looks for the morning,
so do we look for you, O Christ.**

**All [Come with the dawning of the day
and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.]**

**All May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us
so that we may be consecrated in the truth.
Amen.**

Evening Hymns

Abide With Me

- 1 Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh abide with me!
- 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day.
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away.
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me!
- 3 I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
- 4 I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.
- 5 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee!
In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me!

Glory To Thee My God This Night

- 1 Glory to thee, my God, this night,
for all the blessings of the light:
keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.
- 2 Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son,
the ill that I this day have done;
that with the world, myself, and thee,
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
- 3 Teach me to live, that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed;
teach me to die, that so I may
rise glorious at the awful day.
- 4 O may my soul on thee repose,
and with sweet sleep mine eyelids close;
sleep that shall me more vigorous make
to serve my God when I awake.
- 5 When in the night I sleepless lie,
my soul with heavenly thoughts supply;
let no ill dreams disturb my rest,
no powers of darkness me molest.
- 6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O Strength And Stay

- 1 O strength and stay upholding all creation,
who ever dost thyself unmoved abide,
yet day by day the light in due gradation
from hour to hour through all its changes guide;
 - 2 grant to life's day a calm unclouded ending,
an eve untouched by shadows of decay,
the brightness of a holy death-bed blending
with dawning glories of the eternal day.
 - 3 Hear us, O Father, gracious and forgiving,
through Jesus Christ thy co-eternal Word,
who with the Holy Ghost by all things living
now and to endless ages art adored.
-

Saviour Again To Thy Dear Name We Raise

- 1 Saviour, again to thy dear name we raise
with one accord our parting hymn of praise;
we stand to bless thee ere our worship cease;
then, lowly kneeling, wait thy word of peace.
- 2 Grant us thy peace upon our homeward way;
with thee began, with thee shall end, the day:
guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
that in this house have called upon thy name.
- 3 Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the coming night;
turn thou for us its darkness into light;
from harm and danger keep thy children free,
for dark and light are both alike to thee.
- 4 Grant us thy peace throughout our earthly life,
our balm in sorrow, and our stay in strife;
then, when thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,
call us, O Lord, to thine eternal peace.

The Day Thou Gavest

- 1 The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
The darkness falls at Thy behest;
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.
 - 2 We thank Thee that Thy church unsleeping,
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping,
And rests not now by day or night.
 - 3 As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day,
The voice of prayer is never silent,
Nor dies the strain of praise away.
 - 4 The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.
 - 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,
Like earth's proud empires, pass away;
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for ever,
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.
-

God That Madest Earth And Heaven

- 1 God that madest earth and heaven, darkness and light;
who the day for toil hast given, for rest the night;
may thine angel-guards defend us,
slumber sweet thy mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us, this livelong night.
- 2 Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and, when we die,
may we in thy mighty keeping all peaceful lie :
when the last dread call shall wake us,
do not thou our God forsake us,
but to reign in glory take us with thee on high.

*Common Worship: Daily Prayer, material from which is included in this service,
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2005.*

*Text from The Book of Common Prayer, the rights in which are vested in the
Crown, is reproduced by permission of the Crown's Patentee, Cambridge
University Press.*

Text of the evening hymns is in the Public Domain.